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NO. 7793 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1990/RAJAB 18, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILS

## Soviets risk Arab ties

### Kuwait expresses deep regret over Jews influx

KUWAIT has warned the Soviet Union that mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel would harm its ties with Arab nations.

The warning was issued by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed in a meeting with Soviet Ambassador Ernest Zverev, yesterday.

"We expressed our deep regret over the emigration and we stressed to him that its continuation would be at the expense of relations between the Soviet Union and its Arab

friends," Kuwait News Agency, Kuna, quoted Sheikh Sabah as saying.

Israel expects about half-a-million Soviet Jews to arrive over the next few years. Arab states have expressed fears that many will be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to some 1.7 million Palestinians.

His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, current chairman of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), last week accused Moscow of colluding with Washington over the migration, which he described as the "worst crime in the 20th century."

The Soviet Union said on Monday it could not reverse its policy of freedom of choice for those wishing to leave the country. It has called for a UN Security Council meeting to discuss Arab fears.

Sheikh Sabah said he hoped the meeting would reach "an appropriate decision that would prevent immigrant Soviet Jews from settling in the occupied Arab territories," Kuna reported.

Sheikh Sabah said the Soviet ambassador handed him a message from Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on the outcome of his recent talks in Moscow with US State Secretary James Baker as well as settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied Arab territories.

Sheikh Sabah said he explained to the Soviet ambassador Kuwait's worries at the dangerous repercussions of the emigration of Soviet Jews on the cause of the Palestinian people, its future and legitimate rights.

"During the meeting with the Soviet ambassador we expressed our deep regret over the emigration and we assured him that its continuity would be at the expense of the relations between the Soviet Union and its Arab friends," Sheikh Sabah said.

He added that the Soviet ambassador had shown understanding regarding the Arab stand and the shock felt by the Arab nation as a result of the emigration.

Sheikh Sabah expressed hope the upcoming meeting of the UN Security Council, called for by the Soviet Union on Monday, would reach an appropriate decision that would prevent immigrant Soviet Jews from settling in occupied Arab territories.

#### WBA okays

### It's Douglas

NEW YORK, Feb 13, (Reuters): The World Boxing Association announced today that it recognised James "Buster" Douglas as world heavyweight champion despite the "long count" knock-out he suffered in Sunday's fight against Mike Tyson.

"The WBA has declared Buster Douglas to be heavyweight champion of the world,"

See Page 18.

## Fleeing for life over snows

### Aoun vows to annihilate

BEIRUT, Feb 13, (Agencies): Panicked civilians fled over snow-covered roads on foot to escape an anticipated eruption of intra-Christian violence today after maverick Gen. Michel Aoun described the rival Christian militia as "an unacceptable tumour in our body."

Aoun said he was prepared to allow the Lebanese Forces militia under Samir Geagea to play a political role in the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) Christian enclave he seeks to control.

The 54-year-old Maronite general stressed, however, that no armed organisation beside his 19,000-man army would be allowed to operate in the enclave.

"They are welcome if they want political responsibility," Aoun told a news conference at the bunker headquarters of the shell-blasted presidential palace east of Beirut.

"They should be integrated into an official apparatus. They are an unacceptable tumour in our body," Aoun said.

"We are ready to give them a chance. In times of a major crisis, one should be ready to take valiant decisions to avoid more victims and more tragedies," Aoun said.

The general's remarks reiterated conditions he outlined more than two weeks ago that the Lebanese Forces be disbanded as a militia and transformed into a political party.

Geagea has rejected the offer as "an effort to eliminate us," noting that his militia had fought for the Christians against Lebanese Muslims, Palestinians and

Syrians throughout the nation's nearly 15-year-old civil war. The militia has 6,000 fighters and reservists estimated in the thousands.

Aoun's command reported the death of 15 soldiers in combat during the last two days. Police said 18 corpses were evacuated from sniper-targeted streets of East Beirut today.

That raised the overall toll to 513 killed and 1,724 wounded since the intra-Christian confrontation erupted Jan 30.

Aoun accused the Lebanese Forces of "stabbing the army in the back. They wanted to eliminate the army."

"Thank God we managed to absorb the shock and we stopped their forces where they should be stopped," Aoun said.

He said his forces, throughout the 15-day confrontation with Geagea's militia, have "achieved the minimum we are capable of doing."

Aoun was referring to the strategic Dbyeh hills which his army wrested from Geagea's militia north of Beirut early last week.

"We are capable of doing more," Aoun said in an apparent threat to use the forces poised to overrun the militia's main powerbase in the Christian hinterland of Kesrouan province north of Beirut.

Aoun's troops and Lebanese Forces militiamen fought intermittent artillery and mortar duels in East Beirut and the Kesrouan province throughout the day as civilians continued to

(Continued on Page 11)



Cabautan comforts his weeping sister. (Reuters wirephoto)

## 12-year jail for '87 coup

MANILA, Feb 13, (AP): A military court today convicted a former lieutenant colonel of leading a 1987 coup attempt against President Corason Aquino and sentenced him to 12 years at hard labour.

Former Philippine Constabulary Lt Col Reynaldo Cabautan was found guilty of mutiny on April 18, 1987, when rebellious troops stormed the army headquarters in suburban Fort Bonifacio. The mutineers seized some 50 hostages in a bid to free other rebels jailed for a failed coup the previous January.

Troops loyal to the late President Ferdinand Marcos seized a television station and raided at least two suburban military bases in the Jan 27 rebellion, which ended after 61 hours when holdouts in the television station surrendered.

The court cleared Cabautan of involvement in the January revolt due to conflicting testimony by prosecution witnesses. The prosecution claimed Cabautan led soldiers from a province north of Manila to reinforce the rebels at the station, but his troops were intercepted by loyal soldiers at a highway several kilometres (miles) away. Cabautan's lawyers said they would appeal today's verdict.

## Kashmir militants lynch official

SRINAGAR, Feb 13, (Agencies): Muslim militants fighting for an independent Kashmir kidnapped an Indian intelligence officer, lynched him, witnesses said today.

The body of inspector Yashpal Sharma was found hanging from an almond tree near the town of Walsapora, about 15 kilometres (9 miles) west of Srinagar, today, said the witnesses who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Radicals hanged the body of Sharma sometime during the night and then drove nails through his hands, pinning the body to a tree, police said. A rope dangled from the victim's neck when locals discovered the body, police reported.

Jammu-Kashmir Gov. Jagmohan, the top administrator in the state, told reporters he could not confirm the kidnapping or the killing.

The death would raise to 86 the number of people killed since Jan 20 in confrontations between security forces and militants fighting for the secession of predominantly Muslim Kashmir from Hindu-majority India.

Sharma, a Hindu, was allegedly kidnapped from his home in the nearby town of Chadrana on Sunday night, the witnesses said.

Jagmohan, a Hindu, was named governor of the state on Jan 18 and ordered a crackdown on the militant movement two days later.

Today, he told reporters that police aided by paramilitary and army soldiers raided at least 15 houses in downtown Srinagar which were believed to be militant hideouts. He did not say if any arrests were made.

Meanwhile, a senior state administration official said latest intelligence reports showed the militants had acquired rocket launchers and missiles. Military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they suspected the militants were planning large-scale sabotage.

Gunsmen killed the head of state television in India's Jammu and Kashmir state today, police said. "Lass Koul was shot three times while on his way home from work in the summer capital Srinagar. He was declared dead on arrival at hospital."

Muslim militants, fighting for independence in mainly-Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state, have issued statements recently saying state television was a government propaganda tool and a bad influence on Kashmiri culture.

Shops in Srinagar remained closed today despite relaxation of a curfew in the tense city.

Posters appeared in parts of the city signed by the Kashmir Liberation Organisation giving an ultimatum to Jammu and Kashmir's new Governor Jagmohan "to quit before the end of February or be eliminated."

Shopkeepers said it was too dangerous to open for business because innocent people were getting caught in the crossfire between militants and paramilitary forces sent in by New Delhi to crush the uprising in the Kashmir valley.

Independent sources say at least 100 people have been killed in clashes between security forces and militants since January 20 when the government

(Continued on Page 2)

#### Weather

FAIR weather with light to moderate southeasterly wind and some clouds will appear.

State of sea: Moderate  
High water: 2.00 am, 3.00 pm  
Low water: 8.00 am, 9.00 pm  
Sunrise: 6.30 am  
Sunset: 5.36 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:  
Kuwait: 20°C 68°F  
Ahmad: 17°C 63°F  
Falka: 18°C 64°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:  
Kuwait: 8°C 46°F  
Ahmad: 12°C 54°F  
Falka: 10°C 50°F

Maximum temperatures expected:  
Kuwait: 19°C 66°F  
Ahmad: 17°C 63°F  
Falka: 18°C 64°F

Minimum humidity recorded:  
Kuwait: 95 per cent  
Ahmad: 87 per cent  
Falka: 71 per cent



'We missed you'

Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela (left) is embraced by an unidentified friend during a welcome home rally at Soweto soccer stadium. (Reuters wirephoto). See details on Page 2.

## Shamir move to heal rift

### Likud in confusion

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 13, (Agencies): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir moved today to reconcile hardline opponents in the right-wing Likud bloc a day after a chaotic party meeting that included a threat to resign from the cabinet by Industry Minister Ariel Sharon.

But confusion and uncertainty persisted inside Israel's ruling party. Political activists and analysts divided about whether Shamir or Sharon had emerged victorious from Monday's session.

Efforts were also underway by party activists to persuade Sharon, the former defence minister and architect of Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion, to withdraw his letter of resignation.

Sharon said on Israeli radio he had no plans to retract the letter, but he also left a door open to compromise. He noted that if he

had not quit on principle, "I would prefer certainly to stay in the government."

By Israeli law, the resignation does not take effect until 48 hours after the premier receives the letter, leaving a lot of time for manoeuvring.

The effect of Sharon's resignation and Monday's chaotic Likud central committee meeting on the Middle East peace process also remained uncertain. Sharon's departure from the cabinet could remove an obstacle to US-sponsored efforts to start peace talks with Palestinians, since he is the ringleader of the hardline camp.

But Shamir, in trying to hold together party unity at the meeting, restated his opposition to at least some US-backed compromises for starting the peace talks.

Vice-Premier and Labour

(Continued on Page 11)

## Dushanbe rioters run wild; 37 killed

MOSCOW, Feb 13, (Reuters): Rioting in the Soviet central Asian city of Dushanbe has killed 37 people and security forces have failed to stop the violence spreading to the suburbs, Moscow Radio said today.

Rioting youths defying troops and tanks ran wild through the streets of Dushanbe.

The radio report, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said 80 people had been injured in two days of violence in the city, capital of the republic of Tajikistan.

It said clashes between police and demonstrators had spread from the city centre to the suburbs. "The situation in the town is out of control. Skirmishes and fights were and are going on in more than 200 localities in the town," the radio said.

"Pogroms, excesses and robberies are going on. According to preliminary estimates, 37 people were killed and 80 wounded since the beginning. Our forces are not enough. The emergency situation is not working."

Authorities declared a state of emergency in Dushanbe yesterday after rioters attacked the building of the Communist Party central committee, setting it alight, and rampaged through the city. An overnight curfew is in force.

A journalist at the youth newspaper Kommunist Tajikistana, speaking by telephone from Dushanbe, said crowds in the city centre had dispersed in the evening and the streets were calm after the curfew came into effect at 10 pm.

Earlier reports from journalists in the city spoke of youths running wild in defiance of tanks and troops. There were also press reports of unrest in the neighbouring republic of Kirgizia.

The unrest was the latest in a series of outbreaks of violence in the outlying Soviet republics, caused by ethnic animosity and endemic economic and social problems.

The troubles, viewed as one of the most serious threats to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms, have caused hundreds of deaths in the Transcaucasus and Central Asian regions. Social conflicts have also fuelled tension in European republics, mainly the Baltic region.

Figures released by the Interior Ministry and read on national television put the death toll at six dead and about 70 injured. Dushanbe residents contacted from Moscow said local television was reporting the same figures.

The riots were earlier directed at a rumoured large influx of Armenian refugees, but journalist Alexei Shiryakkin said they were now aimed against all non-Tajik minorities, who make up some 40 per cent of the republic's population.

"Crowds of Tajiks are shouting 'beat the Russians,'" he said.

Shiryakkin said Tajik Communist Party chief Kakhar Makhsimov had told party members to "arm themselves with anything available to defend their enterprises and homes."

(Continued on Page 2)

## Colombian guerrillas kidnap two Americans

BOGOTA, Feb 13, (Reuters): Pro-Cuban rebels have kidnapped two American citizens in Colombia to protest against US President George Bush's plans to attend a drug-fighting summit in Cartagena, a radio station said today.

The private Radio Cadena Nacional said the National Liberation Army (ELN) called local media and said they kidnapped David Leskin today and James Arthur Donnelly late yesterday in Medellin, home of a powerful drug-smuggling cartel.

The radio report could not be immediately confirmed. The ELN said they carried out the kidnapping to protest against the policies of the United States towards Colombia and Bush's meeting with Andean presidents scheduled for

Thursday.

In recent months, the drug crisis has diverted attention from the guerrilla group's war with the Colombian government.

Last week ELN rebels bombed the country's most important oil pipeline and in a separate incident killed seven soldiers, authorities said.

A spokesman for the state oil company Ecopetrol said the guerrillas hit the Cano Limon to Covenas pipeline last Thursday, forcing a suspension of the pumping of crude on the 500-mile-long (800-km) duct in northern Cesar state.

The pipeline, which carries up to 220,000 barrels per day of crude and nearly all of Colombia's oil exports, has been bombed five times this year by the ELN.

## Lebanese soldier finds body of brother he might have killed

BEIRUT, Feb 13, (Reuters): A fighter in Lebanon's inter-Christian war found the body of his brother in a Beirut hospital today and broke down in tears at the thought he might have killed himself.

The soldier, a member of General Michel Aoun's army, passed down rows of corpses, lying on the floor of Baabda Hospital because its morgue was full.

When he recognised his brother, who fought for the rival Lebanese forces (LF)

militia, the soldier sobbed: "Maybe I killed him in the battle of Dbyeh."

He placed the body in the boot of his car and went to hunt for a coffin.

Caskets for the dead are in short supply because of the high death toll in two weeks of fighting between Aoun's forces and the LF. At least 500 people have been killed and 1,750 wounded.

Many people died a week ago in the battle for Dbyeh, an LF stronghold north of Beirut

which Aoun's forces overran after a day-long offensive with artillery, tanks and infantry.

"I have worked for 30 years as an undertaker, including the 15 years of fighting, but until now I never felt life could be so cheap," Joseph Daibes told Reuters.

The corpses of soldiers, civilians and rescue workers still lie in bullet-riddled cars or in the street where they fell because fighting has prevented them being retrieved.

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Details inside page

## Dushanbe clashes spread to suburbs

'Out of control'

(Continued from Page 1)

He said Makhkamov had appeared on local television, saying the situation was completely out of control of the republic's leadership, the police or the military.

Shirakchin said troops and tanks had prevented the rioters from breaking through a cordon around the central committee headquarters. The crowd had been forced back, he said, but had not dispersed.

The Tadjik Communist Party's central committee, whose headquarters were under siege by attackers, scheduled an urgent meeting, inter-fax said.

News reports said rioters, most of them youths, rampaged against Armenian refugees from last month's pogroms in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku, which Soviet troops stormed Dec. 20 on orders from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The daily government newspaper said 127 Armenians, including 29

refugees from Baku and the rest long-time residents of Dushanbe, left on the first emergency plane for the Armenian capital of Yerevan. It said a second flight with Armenians had also arrived and two more were expected to night.

"Gangs of youths are running wild all over the city, wrecking shops, overturning cars and stoning passing cars and military vehicles. Troops are firing blanks or shooting into the air. They have no orders to shoot to kill," he said.

Television pictures showed tear-gas billowing through the centre of Dushanbe, with injured demonstrators and policemen being led away from the scene and looters pillaging shops.

Two bodies were shown lying on a city street.

The commentator described the scenes as "an orgy" and said "gatherings and pogroms are continuing."

## Violence linked to Mandela release

DURBAN, South Africa, Feb. 13, (AP): Fifty people have been reported killed in escalating Natal province violence since Nelson Mandela has been freed from prison, police and monitoring groups reported today.

Newspapers and witnesses said Indians had been coming under increasing attack from blacks in the port city.

The increased violence in an area already wracked by four years of black political faction fighting "has been linked to the raised political temperature created by Mr. Mandela's release and his statement that the armed struggle would continue," the Star of Johannesburg newspaper said.

Brig. Jac Buchner, police commissioner for the Zulu homeland, said guns were used to kill 13 people in the Mponanga township yesterday. He called it "a worrying escalation" in an area where firebombs, knives and sharpened sticks are the usual weapons. More than 2,500 people have been killed in the violence since 1986.

Police said most of the fighting was between supporters of Mandela's African National Congress and members of the Inkatha political organisation of Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthe. They said criminal elements also were taking advantage of the chaos.

The Natal Witness newspaper said concern was growing about anti-Indian sentiment in the townships around Durban, which has South Africa's largest population of people of Indian descent.

Natal Witness said today that black crowds have attacked Indians four times a week, and two Indian men were stabbed to death Sunday in Durban. Other blacks rescued Indians from a mob, the witnesses said.

Independent church and civic groups monitoring unrest in the area said a pamphlet had been distributed in black townships saying Indians controlled the Congress of South African Trade Unions and had called strikes so black people would lose their jobs.

# Mandela pledges to end apartheid 'hell'

Hero's welcome: moderation preached

SOWETO, South Africa, Feb. 13, (Agencies): Roaring crowds gave Nelson Mandela a hero's welcome today when he returned to the black township of Soweto with a message of moderation and a pledge to end "the dark hell of apartheid."

His speech included a powerful appeal for discipline and a condemnation of violence that has surged through South Africa's townships since President F.W. de Klerk took a political risk in freeing him from jail on Sunday.

"Today my return to Soweto fills my heart with joy," he told one of the biggest rallies ever seen in South Africa as 100,000 excited supporters

"With this support I have not the slightest doubt that we will reach the goal of liberating the black people of this country within our lifetime." His message of moderation seemed likely to be welcomed by the white-led government, anxiously watching the electrifying effect of Mandela's freedom on millions of voteless blacks.

In Cape Town, where his arrival on Sunday turned chaotic and violent, the far-right Conservative Party laid a treason charge against Mandela, who reaffirmed his support for armed struggle as soon as he was released.

"There are some elements among those who claim support for the liberation struggle who use violence against our people," Mandela said today, singling out hijacking of vehicles and what he called harassment of innocent people.

He also strongly urged blacks to go back to school and study, despite the inequalities of the segregated South African education system.

Parts of Mandela's speech at the rally could have come from the lips of a government spokesman.

"The level of crime in the townships is unacceptable and must be eliminated as a matter of urgency," he said.

"Nelson Mandela, there is no one like you... welcome our leader," roared the crowd in the soccer city stadium.

"The people want to be led by you," his veteran fellow-prisoner Walter Sisulu and ANC colleague told Mandela as he presented him to the crowd.

In his stadium rally speech, Mandela declared he took by his plans to redistribute wealth, although he knew his support for nationalising South Africa's mines and major industries had scared investors.

"We believe that apartheid has created a heinous system of exploitation in which a racist minority monopolises economic wealth, while the vast majority of oppressed black people are condemned to poverty," Mandela said.

"The ANC is just as committed to



Supporters of ANC had to squeeze under a security fence to escape a dangerous crush as they waited to welcome Mandela home to Soweto yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

economic growth and productivity as the present employers claim to be," he told the crowd.

"Yet they are also committed to ensure that a democratic government has the resources to address the inequalities caused by apartheid."

His previous comments reaffirming ANC plans to nationalise mines and other major industries shook South African markets yesterday and today, causing the price of shares and bonds to fall.

Without using the word "nationalisation," he said today "much debate has been sparked off by the ANC policies on the economy relating to rationalisation and a redistribution of wealth."

"South Africa is a wealthy country. It is the labour of black workers that has made the cities, roads and factories. They cannot be excluded from sharing this wealth."

Mandela had delayed his triumphal homecoming to Soweto and spent his second night of freedom at the home of a rich businessman friend north of Johannesburg.

Journalists kept an all-night vigil outside the locked gates of the sprawling property of Richard Maphonyi in the rural neighbourhood of Honeydew where Mandela was driven last night.

"Speak, we are calling you" yelled the people of Soweto, who had waited impatiently for his homecom-

ing since his release on Sunday after 27 years in jail.

Driven into the stadium by car, the 71-year-old leader walked around on a lap of honour amid the chanting homage of his supporters, greeting them with a clenched-fist salute.

Thousands more milled around outside the stadium after gates were locked by marshals fearing a repeat of the chaos and looting at the first rally in Cape Town on Sunday.

A rally planned for Monday at a smaller stadium nearby was called off and dozens were injured in the crush. Elsewhere in South Africa, killings and violent incidents have multiplied since his release, particularly in Natal.

## Kashmir militants 'acquire' missiles

(Continued from Page 1)

ment cracked down on the secessionist movement.

Militants opened fire on a military engineers' truck late yesterday killing one person and injuring two near Srinagar's old airport, police said.

Pakistan today appealed to India to restrain its troops from shooting at protesters trying to cross the ceasefire line that has divided Kashmir between India and Pakistan since 1949.

Pakistan Foreign Secretary Tanvir Ahmed Khan made the appeal to his Indian counterpart S.K. Singh on a special telephone "hotline" set up to deal with crises between the two countries, an Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Singh told Khan Indian troops would have no option but to open fire again if protesters tried to cross the United Nations-monitored line, the spokesman said.

Pakistan's UN ambassador said yesterday that a UN-sponsored plebiscite endorsed over 40 years ago by the Security Council is essential to end the separatist violence in India's state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Nasim Ahmed, Pakistan's permanent UN representative, met UN officials and later told reporters that his government is sending envoys abroad in an international campaign to "galvanise" world public opinion in favour of Pakistan, a plebiscite and a peaceful solution in Kashmir.

He said Iqbal Akhund, a former UN envoy, would be visiting New York. Envoys will visit Beijing, Moscow, Washington, Ottawa and other world capitals.

Ahmed earlier briefed Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, about the situation in Kashmir and assured him Pakistan is exercising restraint and seeks a peaceful settlement involving self-determination.

Police said militants hurled a bomb at a gas station about 9 am, heavily damaging the business, but that no other violent incidents occurred.

Tens of thousands of security and paramilitary forces are stationed throughout the valley to quell a general uprising against Indian rule. Kashmir has been a trouble spot for India and Pakistan for four decades and two wars have been fought over the region. The latest round of violence flared Jan. 20 following the government crackdown and the arrest of 250 suspected militants.

"Today, curfew was lifted for 12 hours, beginning at 5 am (2300 GMT yesterday), in all but two districts of Srinagar, the state's summer capital, and the stronghold of the militants."

## Muzaffarabad mourns death of Pakistani at ceasefire line shooting

MUZAFFARABAD, Feb. 13, (AP): Family members wailed in grief at the funeral yesterday of a Pakistani killed by Indian guards, and others warned of greater disturbances along the border that has been the flashpoint of two wars between the countries.

Faroukh Qureshi's body lay in a stark plywood coffin a day after he joined a crowd that surged across a narrow suspension bridge connecting Pakistan and India in the disputed Kashmir region.

Indian guards opened fire, killing at least three and up to six people, Pakistani troops responded with gunfire. The two sides exchanged fire for about 30 minutes, but no further casualties were reported.

Both countries claim the Muslim-dominated territory,

and India has been battling a secessionist movement in the portion it controls, called Jammu-Kashmir state.

The Pakistani protesters crossed the border to support the secessionist militants in India.

"Faroukh felt strongly, but he wasn't what you would call a militant," said a cousin, known only as Masoud. "He just went with a peaceful procession to show that the ceasefire line does not exist for Kashmiris."

The peaceful demonstration turned violent, said Mohammad Rafiq Awan, deputy magistrate at the Pakistani border village of Chaukothi.

"The (Pakistani) army tried to stop the mob, I even tried, but, they beat me and went ahead," he told the Associated Press.

Awan said escalating tensions "are ten times higher" than in 1948 or 1965, when Pakistan and India went to war over Kashmir. Pakistan lost both wars.

Some of the demonstrators, lying wounded in Muzaffarabad's military hospital from gunshot wounds, promised to storm the ceasefire line again. This time, they said, they would be armed.

Muzabir Rehman was shot three times after crossing the ceasefire line and invading an Indian bunker to hoist his militant National Students' Federation flag on top. He said he lay in the bunker for three hours while firing continued, then returned to Pakistan after nightfall.

Rehman said he would go back when he healed.

Hasan Mahmood boasted of being the first to step onto Indian soil on Sunday.

"We will enter occupied Kashmir like guerrillas and we will fight like guerrillas," he said of the next foray.

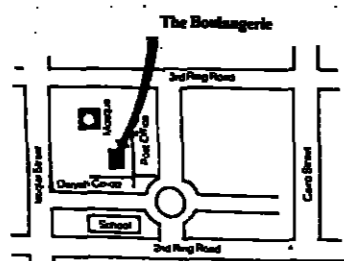
A 1,400-kilometre (840-mile) ceasefire line divides the Kashmir between Pakistan and India. Scores of people have died in recent weeks in Indian-held Kashmir, where pro-Pakistan Muslims want to secede from India and either be independent or join with Pakistan.

Until last month, Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-held Kashmir, was a slumbering city cradled in the foothills of the Himalayas.



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VETERINARY MEDICINE

فكرنا من اجل





A Tobá Indian woman stands with her two children. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Paraguay Indians in danger

## Tobas face extinction

QUOM, Paraguay, Feb 13, (Reuters): More than 100,000 Paraguayan Indians, their bodies weakened by disease and their pride crushed by centuries of humiliation, are threatened with extinction.

In Quom, just 60 km (37 miles) north of Asunción, barefoot, raggedly-dressed children of the Tobá tribe, their stomachs bloated by malnutrition and parasites, play in the dust while their parents stand around with nothing to do.

Some 150 families live in log huts built along the roadside. Until recently they survived by hunting wild animals, but this has now been banned by the government.

According to Bishop Mario Melanio Medina, the Tobá — like other tribes throughout Paraguay — are in danger of extinction.

"There are 100,000 aborigines from 17 different ethnic groups in the country. In some places they are forced to work as slaves and are easily wiped out by disease," he told Reuters in an interview.

The bishop said the church must take its share of the blame for the hundreds of years of mistreatment that have beaten the Indians into submission.

"They are humble because they have been humiliated for centuries. There have been 500 years of evangelisation, and it is time the church looked critically at the role it has played in creating the Indians' present situation," he said.

The Tobá Indians call the place where they live "caizal" — stony ground in their dialect — because of its hard, dry earth, which is difficult to cultivate.

"They (the government) have trampled on the Indian," said the tribal chief, Alfonso, speaking in the Guaraní language used by nearly all Paraguay's four million inhabitants.

Dressed in frayed pants and a shirt with a huge hole in the back, he talked bitterly of how his people had been persecuted and exploited.

"The white men call us thieves, but that is just because we refuse to give them the feathers from the Nandú (native ostrich) we hunt. They wanted to pay us in cane liquor."

Many of Paraguay's Indians continue to be nomadic but, banned from the ranches and farms of wealthy landowners, they are forced to camp near well-travelled routes, where they live for a few weeks until they exhaust the area of its fast vanishing wildlife.

Hunting becomes more difficult each day and living conditions deteriorate steadily, said Alfonso.

"The Indians are the poorest group in Paraguay," Medina said. "This is because they lack something that is very important: land. Without it the Indian feels rejected and without self-respect. His pride is shattered. To take away his land is to take away his life."

Aid projects run by the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches and the government's National Indigenous Institute's health programmes appear to have little effect on the native population, which seems to be more interested in recovering its lost hunting grounds than improving its health and hygiene.

Much effort by church and aid groups is spent trying to persuade the Indians to overcome their prejudices and seek treatment from white doctors when they fall sick.

"For them, to be sick is a punishment, and they react to it with a strange sort of resignation."

## Loud noise may hurt foetal ears

GAINESVILLE, Florida, Feb 13, (UPI): Foetuses are not sheltered from all loud noises in the womb, a finding that suggests pregnant women in noisy environments may risk damaging their babies' hearing, researchers said yesterday.

In a study of sheep and humans, University of Florida researchers found that for low-frequency sounds — those below middle C — there is little difference in noise levels found outside the mother and those reaching the foetus. For sounds above middle C, noise levels inside the womb were much less than on the outside, they said.

"We don't want to be alarmists," said Kenneth Gerhardt, co-author of the study. "We're just suggesting that pregnant women who work in noisy environments or are exposed to extended levels of noise might want to exercise caution."

Comparing the sound to the bass of a stereo vibrating through a wall, Gerhardt said the amniotic fluid inside the mother's womb enhances low-frequency sounds while dampening high-frequency noise.

One concern is that low-frequency noise or excessive vibration might possibly damage the hearing of foetuses, particularly during the last trimester of pregnancy, said Gerhardt, who will present his findings this week at the International conference on sound and vibration in pregnancy.

## Death under anaesthesia Gene traced

NEW YORK, Feb 13, (AP): Researchers have identified a gene that appears to cause a potentially fatal reaction to general anaesthesia, a condition blamed for killing a 25-year-old volleyball player last month.

Further work might lead to a blood test to detect people at risk, replacing a procedure that requires removing a sample of muscle. The condition, malignant hyperthermia, causes sustained muscle contraction, fever and muscle destruction in reaction to commonly used inhaled general anaesthetics.

While there are no good statistics on how often it occurs, estimates range from one in 10,000 administrations of anaesthetics to one in 30,000, said Henry Rosenberg, chairman of the Professional Advisory Council of the Malignant Hyperthermia Association of the United States.

Perhaps one in 10 cases leads to death, said Rosenberg, who added that his organization learns of about eight to 10 deaths a year in this country.

Malignant hyperthermia was blamed in last month's death of Judy Bellomo, a member of the US women's volleyball team. She died during surgery for thyroid cancer.

If the new research leads to a reliable blood test to detect vulnerable people, it would be an important advance, he said yesterday.

Charlotte, North Carolina, Feb 13, (UPI): Evangelist Jim Bakker said in a letter yesterday that his time in Federal Prison has left him a broken-hearted, lonely man and being behind bars at Christmas was almost more than he could bear.

Bakker's four-page, handwritten letter to his followers in Charlotte was different from other mass mailings he has done in recent years — it never once asked for money.

Instead, Bakker admitted he is a sinner and said God has forgiven his sins. He insisted, however, he is not guilty of the cocaine charges that landed him a 45-year prison term last

## Argentina ready for concessions

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 13, (UPI): Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo said yesterday his country is ready to grant Great Britain a clause in talks in Madrid this week that will make agreements valid only while Argentina has a democratic system.

"If the British ask for (the clause), surely we will grant it," Cavallo said in a news conference in the government house Monday, two days before Argentine and British officials are scheduled to meet in Madrid to re-establish diplomatic relations, interrupted since the 1982 Falklands Island war.

Cavallo was responding to a question on

the possibility Great Britain may insist the protective clause be included in agreements signed this week, similar to one included in negotiations between Argentina and the European Economic Community to normalise trade and relations.

Cavallo said that both he and Argentine President Carlos Menem are ready to assure that the democratic system is consolidated in Argentina.

The foreign minister confirmed some statements made by Menem over the weekend, when he said that Britain "may" lift the military exclusion zone that surrounds

the Falklands.

The exclusion zone is a 150-mile area that encircles the island, claimed by British as their waters and forbidden to Argentine warships, though in October the two countries agreed to allow British merchant ships to enter the area.

"The decision to raise the protection zone corresponds to the United Kingdom," said Cavallo, but he added that "Argentina places the greatest emphasis in advancing mutual confidence, in such a way that the United Kingdom would consider it unnecessary to maintain a protec-

tion zone."

Cavallo said that Menem received a letter from US President George Bush expressing his "satisfaction over the progress made in conversations" up until now.

"The United States has been helping the United Kingdom as much as Argentina in searching for ways to become closer, even before our government came to office," Cavallo said.

Menem took office July 8, 1989, and in August, sent representatives to meet with British official in New York to lay down plans for re-establishing diplomatic ties.

## Need to edit Reagan testimony

## Poindexter trial delayed

WASHINGTON, Feb 13, (AP): A federal judge delayed the start of John Poindexter's Iran-Contra trial by two weeks and said former President Ronald Reagan's videotaped testimony would be taken Friday morning at the federal courthouse in Los Angeles.

US District Court Judge Harold Greene said yesterday that disagreement over the use of about 150 classified documents, the need to edit Reagan's taped testimony and other matters would require delaying Poindexter's trial from Feb 20 to March 5.

Richard Becker, a lawyer for Poindexter, a former national security adviser, urged that Reagan not be questioned until Iran-Contra prosecutors completed presenting their case.

"I'm not going to buy that," Greene said. "We are going

to proceed."

Greene accepted Reagan's proposal to have the deposition taken Friday in Los Angeles, but rejected the suggestion by Theodore Olson, one of Reagan's lawyers, that the questioning take place in Reagan's office.

Greene said the US courthouse has the necessary amount of space plus security for classified documents. At a hearing, Greene said it was doubtful he would let the news media attend the deposition.

Seven news organisations have filed an application seeking to have the questioning open to the media and the public.

The organisations argued that the first amendment right of access has been held to apply to pre-trial proceedings in addition to all aspects of a criminal trial.

## Bush for all out help to Andeans

WASHINGTON, Feb 13, (Reuters): President George Bush said yesterday he will use this week's international drug summit to convince Colombia, Peru and Bolivia to let US forces join them in interdiction efforts.

Bush flies to Colombia on Thursday for a one-day summit aimed at co-ordinating efforts to crack down on illegal drugs with Presidents Virgilio Barco of Colombia, Alan García of Peru and Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia.

"In terms of interdiction, what I'd like to convince them is that we can be extraordinarily helpful, particularly in Colombia in their courageous fight against narcotics traffickers, by a sophisticated interdiction effort," Bush told reporters.

Last month, the United States had to scrap plans for two American warships to be stationed off the coast of Colombia to stop drug traffickers because of a political uproar in Latin America over such a move.

Bush, speaking at a news conference, blamed opposition to the use of warships on "some mischievous stories" that suggested the United States would set up a blockade.

"There was never any intention of a blockade," Bush said. "Absolutely absurd. And yet, that threw a panic among many of the Colombians."

He said he would use the summit to stress efforts within the United States to curb drug abuse, while saying all four countries need to co-operate in the overall effort.

"I hope we can get agreement in terms of support for the anti-narcotics efforts in these countries," Bush said, while acknowledging that the United States has become the world's chief consumer of cocaine.

He said he wanted to assure the leaders of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia that "we are going out on all fronts and I think that I can do that."

"We're talking about major efforts on the demand side, a major initiative," Bush told reporters.

The summit will be held in the coastal resort city of Cartagena, where thousands of Colombian troops and police will provide security for the heads of state.

Bush said he will tell the leaders that their problems cannot be solely blamed on the United States, despite its leading consumption in cocaine, and that the United States is doing its share to educate its young against the use of narcotics and to fight drug traffickers.

The administration, as part of plans to increase the military's role in the drug war, was going to send the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy and the cruiser USS Virginia to international waters off Colombia to help detect drug traffickers.



## Security alert

A massive security operation is being assembled to protect President George Bush and three Latin leaders from danger during a daylong drug summit in violence-ravaged Colombia.

A wide array of defences — some obvious and some not — are expected to be in place when Bush spends about six hours Thursday with the Presidents of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia at a heavily guarded naval base near the coastal resort city of Cartagena.

Brushing aside security concerns, Bush says he wants to go to Colombia as an expression of support for its President, Virgilio Barco, who is waging war against the country's drug lords. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Black students abandon sit-in 'Keep the dream alive'

SELMA, Alabama, Feb 13, (AP): About 150 black students ended a five-day sit-in Monday at Selma High School, then briefly joined a demonstration at city hall, all part of a racial protest that shut down all schools in this landmark city of the civil rights movement.

The protesters carried a banner that said "keep the dream alive" to the city hall where they packed the corridors. A few adults took part along with the students.

Before their arrival, all city hall offices were open, with only a handful of protesters in sight. When the students jammed inside, however, all offices closed, except for Mayor Joe Smithman's. He remained, with several police guarding his door.

By noon, all but about 25 adult and student protesters were gone from city hall, and offices reopened.

Smithman, the same man who was mayor during the historic 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march, met for less than an hour with six student leaders and two attorneys, state Sen Hank Sanders and Yusuf Salaam, both of Selma. The meeting ended without any sign of progress.

"He's not satisfied us. There was double-talking going on," said one of the students, Malika Sanders, a daughter of the state senator.

The 150 sit-in protesters had left the high school after meeting with Sanders, a protest leader, and school superintendent Norward Russell.

The turmoil began when six white members of the city school board voted Feb 2 to dismiss Russell, the city's first black superintendent. The vote sparked protests leading to the closing of two schools Tuesday and all 11 of Selma's public schools Wednesday.

Russell was reinstated after initial protests. But students and other protesters want the school board to extend his contract, which expires June 30.

Before the students left the high school, three whites demonstrated outside. One of them, Jim Byrum, walked up to the main doors, knocked on them and, as some black students peered through the windows, said, "It's eight o'clock. My child is ready to go to school."

When he could not get in, Byrum, his 11th-grade daughter, Kristen, and Gary Wilson, the father of two children at Selma High, began marching in front of the school, carrying signs saying, "let us go to school together."

## Who will get 'green' money?

## 'Carbon tax' call

LONDON, Feb 13, (Reuters): Opec and the West's finance ministers may find themselves competing for a "green" oil dollar if public alarm about the environment turns out to be more than a passing fad.

Who, oil experts wonder, would get the money if it became fashionable to curb energy demand by making consumers pay more — Western governments through higher taxes or Opec in the shape of steeper prices for its crude oil?

Current policy in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries is influenced by such heavyweight Gulf Arab producers as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Their strategy is to maintain moderate oil prices so as to stimulate worldwide demand for their huge reserves of petroleum.

But that may put them on a collision course with the environmentalist lobby. It wants western governments to impose special "carbon taxes" that would raise prices to the consumer and thereby curb consumption of coal, oil and gas.

These fossil fuels are subjected of being the chief culprits in a supposed "greenhouse effect" of global warming, an apparent result of emissions of carbon dioxide when they are burned.

So far, governments have resisted calls for taxes. Opinion polls in the United States and in some European countries suggest that voter concern about the fate of the planet tends to evaporate when it threatens to cost money.

US officials reckon a tax of as much as 50 cents per gallon would be needed to make a real dent in demand in the United States, which accounts for at least half of all the gasoline burned in the West.

They say Congress would resist it and US Energy Secretary James Watkins says it will be 1995 before Washington decides whether it needs to restrict carbon dioxide emissions.

But "an increase in taxes on polluting fuels will probably prove to be necessary," according to European Economic Community environment commissioner Carlo Ripa di Meana.

If so, and if petroleum as well as coal — which is dirtier fuel — appeared seriously threatened, Opec might be tempted to take pre-emptive action and raise crude prices.

The alternative would be to watch as a helpless spectator while Western governments not only quenched demand for Opec oil but boosted their exchequers in the process.

"The environmental concerns will mean higher end-use prices for energy," says Joseph Stanislaw, managing director of Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA) and a prominent analyst of long-term trends in the world oil market.

"This will reawaken discussion last heard in the 1970s of who should get the economic rent from oil, the producing countries in the form of higher crude prices or the consumers in the form of higher taxes of energy."

## Challenge

Stanislaw speaks of "a dilemma and a new challenge for Opec — how to convert oil into part of the environmental solution and gain part of the economic rent?"

Analysts add that, after the ruinous glut of the 1980s, Opec may soon be back in a position where it could drive oil prices higher if it thought it had nothing to gain by moderation.

World demand is rebounding and only a few producers, notably Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and perhaps Iraq have much spare production capacity.

In Western Europe, Opec allies, two-thirds of the value of each barrel of gasoline sold already goes in tax while it gets less than 25 per cent. In the United States, where taxes are light, Opec fares better taking 40 per cent.

The cartel's present attitude to global warming is marked by extreme caution. Officials point to the hazards of nuclear energy and argue that coal produces more sulphur and carbon dioxide than oil. They also call for dialogue.

Modern man cannot do without energy and Third World poverty has to be alleviated by means of economic expansion, says Opec Secretary-General Subroto of Indonesia.

The issues of energy utilisation, economic development and environmental enhancement must go hand in hand, he declares.

Subroto, in a recent keynote speech on the environment in the United States, said that: "Appropriate environmental considerations will have to be built into the oil industry's investment planning and decisions, into its operations and into its accountability to its employees, its customers, its shareholders and the public at large."

But the industry did have the benefit of what he called huge technical managerial and financial resources, vast experience in operating in all regions of the world and extensive influence in dealing with governments and banks.

Subroto is particularly concerned about policy in the 12-nation European Economic Community (EEC) when it becomes a single market after 1992.

## Environ resources under threat: UN

## Reduce fossil fuels use

WASHINGTON, Feb 13, (Reuters): Some of the world's environmental resources may be depleted long before the 40-year deadline projected in a recent private study unless steps are taken to reduce global dependence on fossil fuels, the US Environmental Protection Agency administrator William Reilly said today.

Reilly said tropical forests, soil and groundwater were among the most imperilled of the world's resources.

"With respect to tropical forests, I think it's a matter of about 15 years before we have lost most of the major integral forest systems in South America, Central America, West Africa and in Asia and Indonesia," Reilly told reporters.

Reilly was commenting on a study by the Washington-based research group, Worldwatch Institute, that predicted a

deterioration of ecological and economic conditions on the planet unless there is a shift within 40 years to economies that can be sustained without depleting the environment.

"With respect to some really critically important ecosystems, we have far less than 40 years," said Reilly.

"The situation for any number of environmental resources is dire and there's nothing near on the horizon that's going to change that," he added.

World economies must either convert to renewable fuels or significantly improve the efficiency of fossil fuels — primarily petroleum, coal and wood — to halt the deterioration, he said.

Reilly also said that evidence is clear that an atmospheric build-up of carbon dioxide, one of the gases emitted from automobile engines, will lead to significant global warming.

## Khmer to attend talks in Jakarta

BANGKOK, Feb 13. (AP) The radical Khmer Rouge guerrilla group changed its mind and will attend the next round of Cambodian peace talks in Jakarta later this month, Thai Foreign Ministry and guerrilla sources said today.

Khieu Samphan, head of the communist Khmer Rouge, earlier had said the group would not attend the talks as it had felt unfairly pressured in past rounds of talks in Jakarta.

A source in the Thai Foreign Ministry and a spokesman for one of the guerrilla groups allied with the Khmer Rouge against the Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia said the Khmer Rouge now had decided to attend the meeting.

The Foreign Ministry source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the decision came after a meeting today between overall guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Khieu Samphan in the Thai seaside resort of Pattaya, where the prince is visiting.

Roland Eng, spokesman for Sihanouk in Bangkok, confirmed the report but gave no further details.

The Foreign Ministry source said it was still unclear whether Sihanouk himself would go to Jakarta or whether he would assign a representative.

Many analysts have said the talks in Jakarta would be fruitless if the Khmer Rouge, the strongest of the guerrilla factions, did not attend.

The Jakarta meeting, scheduled Feb 26-28, is expected to discuss an Australian proposal for a United Nations administration to run Cambodia pending national reunification elections.

**Return**  
In other developments, the five permanent members of the Security Council return to the bargaining table today for more talks on Cambodia peace efforts, including proposals for the United Nations to administer the nation and oversee elections.

Representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France discussed the Cambodian peace process for more than 19 hours yesterday.

They decided to extend the consultations for another day after encountering problems drafting a communiqué.

Diplomats involved declined to specify what prevented agreement on a statement, saying only that the talks would be extended and a communiqué would be issued today.

Earlier yesterday UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar pushed for an urgent settlement to the Cambodian conflict and formed a task force to determine the resources needed for peace initiatives based on a major UN role.

A UN diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the task force would focus on possible UN administration of an interim government and ways to end the fighting.

The task force will include Rafiquddin Ahmed, Perez de Cuellar's special representative on Cambodia, and Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, in charge of UN peacekeeping.

**Plan**  
The secretary-general also told the five permanent members of the Security Council he planned to send a personal representative to a peace conference Feb 26-28 in Indonesia.

Thomas Pickering, permanent UN representative to the United Nations, said it was too early to discuss the size of a possible UN force in Cambodia or the necessary funding.

After the five countries held their initial meeting on Cambodia last month in Paris, they issued a summary of agreed principles that said "an effective UN presence" will be required during an unspecified transition period to ensure internal security.

The full 15-member Security Council would have to approve the plan to clear the way for a major UN role in Cambodia peace efforts. Western diplomats familiar with the negotiations say the New York meeting is just one step in a lengthy process to put together an international peace plan.

# Cory reaffirms strong US ties

## Rebel base bombed, 90 dead

MANILA, Feb 13. (AP) President Corason Aquino today said US-Philippine relations remain strong despite her decision not to meet US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney during his visit next week.

In Cagayan De Oro, about 90 communist guerrillas were killed and more than 100 wounded when military planes bombed a rebel stronghold in the southern Philippines last week, a captured guerrilla said today.

Aquino complained Sunday that American newspapers published speculative reports on the contents of her conversations with visiting American officials. She said that to avoid more speculation, she would not be meeting visiting US officials in the meantime.

"My decision not to meet US Defence Secretary Cheney is not meant as an affront in any way, but the result of my assessment that the matters he wants to take up are best taken up, at this time, with his counterpart in our government," (Defence) Secretary (Fidel) Ramos, Aquino said.

"Our relations with the United States remain strong and firm as sovereign allies sharing common ideals and pursuing the same democratic and peaceful interests," she said.

Aquino was referring to reports that Robert Gates, deputy national security adviser of US President George Bush, warned her last month to make sweeping changes in government to address grievances raised by rebel soldiers who launched the December coup attempt.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and US Ambassador Nicholas Platt met today to consider possible dates for the start of talks on the future of the six US military bases in the Philippines.

Manglapus told reporters the two sides were "trying to arrive at a mutually acceptable date." He said the Philippines proposed that talks begin in April after the Easter holidays.

The talks were to have been held last December, but Aquino decided to postpone them following the military mutiny.

An agreement under which the US operates out of Clark Air Base, Subic Bay Naval Station and four smaller installations expires in September 1991.

The military said two soldiers were killed and 14 were wounded during a week-long battle ending last Friday in Balingasag municipality, Misamis oriental province, 750 km (460 miles) southeast of Manila.

It said government forces used bomber planes and five helicopter gunships this year, with guerrillas of the New People's Army (NPA), who have been waging an insurgency for 20 years.

The captured rebel, Laureto Castillo, was among those who escaped during the attack but was later arrested by the military.

"The bombs hit our logistics command post and about 90 of us were killed," Castillo said in an interview. "Our cadre leaders left us and it was each man for himself."

Army commander Brigadier-General Rogelio Villanueva said troops attacked the rebel camp after being tipped that the guerrillas were holding a meeting in the area.

Federal authorities announced yesterday in Los Angeles they seized 379 handguns, 500,000 reloading clips and 1,000 rounds of ammunition destined for the Philippines and arrested three Filipinos during raids on a home in Long Beach and a warehouse in Garden Grove.

**Back pay dispute**  
4 held for harassing

KISSIMMEE, Fla., Feb 13. (AP) Three police officers and a private detective were arrested after confronting a flamboyant Saudi Sheikh in a dispute over \$14,000 in back wages, authorities said.

The four, who had been Sheikh Mohammed Al Fassi's bodyguards, were charged with false imprisonment after they were hired back to his rented home with a promise of a \$5,000 payment, police said.

Ocala county Sheriff Jon Lane said three of the men went to Al Fassi's central Florida home Sunday armed with pistols and the other was in a car with a sawed-off shotgun.

Al Fassi said one of the men put a gun on a table and hinted they could harm his children if they were not paid the back wages they said they were owed for work at the Sheikh's mansion in Miami Beach, police said.

The full 15-member Security Council would have to approve the plan to clear the way for a major UN role in Cambodia peace efforts. Western diplomats familiar with the negotiations say the New York meeting is just one step in a lengthy process to put together an international peace plan.

**KGB says three-quarters of a million were shot during Stalin years**

MOSCOW, Feb 13. (AP) The KGB secret police said in a report released today that three-quarters of a million citizens were shot as enemies of the Soviet state during the years of Stalin's terror from 1930-1953.

The figure does not include millions who died in labour camps and prisons or in the famines instigated by Stalin during his collectivisation of agriculture, but it represented the first time the KGB had given any figure.

Many Western sources say more than 10 million people died.

Under Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reforms, government commissions and the KGB have been ordered to find the truth about Stalin's years and return their good names to those who were sentenced.

Gorbachev's KGB director, Vladimir A. Kryuchkov, has vowed to never again permit the KGB to be involved in the terror its predecessors unleashed.

The Tass news agency quoted a KGB commission as saying a review of its archives determined that 7,778,234 people had been sentenced for counter-revolutionary acts or crimes against the state from 1930-1953, the year Stalin died.

It said that 786,096 of them, including many top state and party leaders, scientists, military leaders and cultural figures, had been shot.

Many leading figures, such as Bolshevik leader Nikolai I. Bukharin who was shot in 1938, have since been cleared of any crimes.

The Tass report said that the cases of more than 850,000 people had been reconsidered by the KGB and the Soviet procurator's office in the past two years and that all but about 12,000 of them had been cleared.

The KGB said it was continuing to look for the mass graves where Stalin's victims were buried in order to place memorials there. Such graves have been uncovered in many regions of the country in recent years.

But it charged that many local KGB offices were not helping uncover the truth about the innocent victims in their areas.

Soviet occupation forces used the grounds of the Nazi death camp at Buchenwald as a post-war prison camp in which up to 13,000 people died, an East German newspaper said today.

The Thüringische Landeszeitung said "special camp Number 2" was created at Buchenwald, near Weimar in East Germany.

## Rushdie publisher attacked

TOKYO, Feb 13. (Reuters) One year after Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini called for the death of British novelist Salman Rushdie, Japan had its own taste of the controversy when an Italian publisher of Rushdie's book was attacked and told he too must die.

Gianni Palma, who bought the copyright to Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses" in Japanese, was attacked today by a man who flung a microphone at him. Another man later threatened him with death.

Palma was giving a news conference at the Foreign Correspondents Club to launch the book when Adnan Rashid a Pakistani grabbed the publisher's microphone and lunged at his head and back.

The Italian was unhurt and Rashid was overpowered by plainclothes police and taken away muttering prayers.

He was held for attacking Palma. Another Pakistani was also arrested after a scuffle broke out nearby.

At the end of the conference, Raees Siddiqui, president of the Pakistan Association of Japan, leaped to his feet and said: "On behalf of the Muslim people, I would like to say to you that we will not let you live."

Asked whether he had specific plans for action against the publisher, Siddiqui replied: "Nothing specific yet."

"I call your work terrorism. In a peaceful community like Japan, where there has never been any problem until now between the Muslims and the Japanese, you come blaspheming the Muslims and blaspheming the Japanese," Siddiqui boomed.

Indian-born Rushdie has been in hiding for a year since the late Iranian leader Khomeini called on Muslims to execute him for blaspheming Islam in his novel.

Amid the continuing protest by Muslims here over the Rushdie affair, a popular British newspaper said today that it is now time for the author to shoulder some of the financial burden for his protection.

## UN note

## Rights abuses go on in China

GENEVA, Feb 13. (AP) Thousands of people remain imprisoned in China and summary arrests, torture and executions continue more than eight months after the brutal suppression of demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, according to allegations cited yesterday in a note by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The document, containing detailed reports by non-governmental human rights commission during its current six-week session.

An accompanying letter from the Chinese government says authorities showed the "utmost tolerance and restraint in the face of illegal demonstrations" and describes its actions as "justified and legitimate."

A senior Chinese official warned today that there are separatist and anti-communists among the nation's minorities and called for "strict control" to prevent ethnic strife.

"We must take good care that ethnic differences do not intensify. They must be taken under strict control when they appear," State Nationalities Affairs Commission Minister Ismail Amat said at an annual meeting of provincial minority affairs leaders.

Chinese leaders are reportedly concerned that the nationalism that has erupted in violence in the Soviet Union could spill over into China, particularly in the Far West, where Tibetans and the large Muslim population long have harboured resentment of the dominant Han Chinese.

**Details**  
An attached report by the international commission of health professionals for health and human rights gave graphic details of eye witness descriptions of protesters being "crushed by tanks into paste" during the June 4 massacre.

A third private group, the International League for Human Rights, accused Beijing of mounting a campaign involving the "systematic terrorising of much of Beijing's population" and the "purging" of those considered sympathetic to the pro-democracy movement.

"Chinese justifications of its actions are invalid," said the league, adding that the ruthless suppression flouted international law and so was not an internal matter as Beijing has argued.

The letter from China's permanent representative to the UN, Li Lave, accused "a small number of Western countries" of violating the UN charter by interfering in domestic affairs.

"The so-called Tiananmen bloodbath is sheer fabrication," Li wrote.

China said today that its enemies wanted to gain control of the army and it vowed to keep the armed forces loyal to socialism and the Communist Party.

The Liberation Army daily said in a commentary the military was a major obstacle to advocates of "peaceful evolution" who wanted to dismantle the socialist system.

"In the international arena there are some bourgeois politicians and instigators of unrest — who believed that a major factor in the failure of last year's turmoil was that they did not gain hold of the military," the newspaper said.

"Determining whose hands will hold power over the army will be a focus of our long-term struggle with the supporters of bourgeois liberalism," it said.

Bourgeois liberalism is communist Chinese jargon for unacceptable Western ideas.

(See Page 6)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Cultist dies of Aids:** A leading member of a drug-smuggling religious cult believed responsible for 15 mysterious killings in northern Mexico died of Aids while awaiting trial on murder charges, authorities said Monday in Mexico City.

Omar Francisco Orta Ochoa died at 3:20 pm Sunday from a heart attack brought on by Aids, the acquired immune deficiency syndrome, said Ocarrio Campos Ortiz, a spokesman for the Mexico City district attorney.

Ochoa, 24, was admitted on June 20 to the clinic of the Santa Maria Acatitla Penitentiary in eastern Mexico City, where he was diagnosed as carrying the HIV virus believed to cause Aids, Campos Ortiz said. (UPI)

**Plane crash kills mom, son:** A Brazilian airliner with 39 people aboard slammed into houses and a supermarket Monday then crashed on top of a truck, setting it afire. A woman and her child in the truck were killed but nobody on the plane was seriously injured.

Police said 14 passengers, two crew members and four people on the ground were injured.

The Marilia Air Transport Fokker 27 plane was attempting a landing in clear weather at Baturo airport on a flight from Sao Paulo when the accident occurred, said Marco Vancini, an airport spokesman. (UPI)

## Latin America

**Salvador rebels blamed:** The armed forces on Monday blamed leftist rebels for the death of at least six civilians, including five children, who witnesses said were killed during an air force attack on a camp for recently returned refugees in northeastern El Salvador.

Another 20 people were reported wounded during the attack on the village of Corral de Piedra, 53 miles (85 kilometres) northeast of San Salvador in Chalatenango province.

A statement issued by the armed forces press office said guerrillas had taken refuge in the settlement Sunday and fired catapult-launched bombs that landed in a number of homes in the village. (AP)

**Whales still behind schedule:** Mexican officials said an aerial survey showed smaller-than-usual numbers of grey whales arriving in bays along the Pacific Coast of Baja California even though US-based whalewatchers said they were seeing normal numbers.

"Only about 20 per cent of the normal population has arrived, and we're still concerned," said Ulises Cesena Montano, co-ordinator of the Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve, a favoured grey whale calving area.

However, Cesena said bad weather limited the weekend survey. Fog, wind and high waves made the visual inspection difficult and prevented a boat from going out to count whales from sea level, he said. (AP)



Masked

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega addresses a rally on Feb 12, wearing a folkloric mask made in Masaya. He signalled out during the rally the number 5 with his hand indicating his ballot station in the upcoming elections to be held on Feb 25. (Reuters wirephoto)

**Police foil McDonald's robbery:** Three robbers burst into a fast-food restaurant, tied up the manager and attempted to flee with thousands of dollars, but were cut down and killed in a fusillade of police gunfire, authorities said in Los Angeles.

A fourth person involved in the robbery Monday at a McDonald's restaurant was wounded, said police Lt Fred Nixon.

Nine officers from the police department's special investigations section watched the robbery taking place around 2 am, and approached the men after they got into a getaway car, authorities said. (AP)

**Cosmonauts link up with Mir:** A Soyuz spaceship carrying two cosmonauts linked up with the Mir space station on Tuesday, two days after blast-off, the official Soviet news agency, Tass, said.

Flight Commander Anatoly Solovoyov and engineer Alexander Balandin docked their Soyuz TM-9 capsule with the space station at 9:38 am Moscow time (0638 GMT), the news agency said. (AP)

## Alternate-fuel cars idea runs out of gas

WASHINGTON, Feb 13. (AP) The Bush administration is easing away from a proposal that would have required automakers to produce up to a million alternate fuel cars as part of tougher air pollution efforts, officials acknowledged yesterday.

When President George Bush proposed a broad-ranging programme last summer to clean up the nation's air, the centerpiece of plans to combat urban smog was a call for legislation requiring automakers to provide up to 1 million new cars annually by 1997 that could run on fuels other than gasoline.



The cars would be sold in nine cities where smog is worst and were calculated eventually to reach 30 per cent of the motor vehicle fleets in those areas.

But William Reilly, head of the Environmental Protection Agency, confirmed yesterday that the administration no longer considers requiring the production of such cars, which would use fuels such as methanol or natural gas, as essential to curbing urban smog.

SINGAPORE FESTIVAL

25 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE




# The Singapore Experience

## A taste of Singapore comes to Kuwait in celebration.

Experience the splendour of exotic Singapore. In Kuwait from Singapore are Lion dancers, musicians, a finger painter and other renowned artists performing at the SAS Kuwait Hotel. Indulge in a lavish buffet dinner prepared by chefs from Singapore's Oriental Hotel and a variety of fragrant fruits and flowers from the island for the event. So, join the celebration with a taste of the Orient. At the SAS-Telco February 20th and 21st. Tickets are available at the Hotel's Reception.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

**Unique snapshots of solar system:** The Voyager 1 spacecraft, having completed its mission to explore the outer planets, is ready to take "an unprecedented family portrait" of most of the planets in the solar system, US space officials said on Monday in Pasadena, Calif.

"This is not just the first time, but perhaps the only time for decades that we will be able to take a picture of the planets from outside the solar system," said Voyager project scientist Dr. Edward Stone.

No future space missions are planned that would fly a spacecraft so high above the solar system, he said.

A spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Pasadena, California, said the spacecraft was 3.7 billion miles from Earth and had a "bird's eye view" of the solar system. (Reuters)



Getting to be a royal

Kiko Kawashima, the demure, middle-class fiancée of Prince Aya, second-in-line to Japan's imperial throne, began her pre-nuptial lessons at the imperial palace on Tuesday, the imperial household agency said.

The princess-to-be will be taught for one month about the various rituals performed in the palace, as well as Japan's history and constitution, a spokesman said.

Kawashima, 23, a graduate student at Gakushuin University, is only the second commoner to enter the imperial family.

Her future mother-in-law, the Empress Michiko, was the first to do so 31 years ago.

Kawashima is shown above leaving the Archives and Mausoleum department of the Imperial Palace Feb 13. (Reuters wirephoto)

**Perrier flow to resume in 2 weeks:** Yuppies can relax. Exports of Perrier mineral water to the United States, halted by a scare over benzene contamination, will resume within two to three weeks, a Perrier spokesman said Monday.

Jean-Claude Lemaigren, a Perrier spokesman in Paris, said the company had determined there was no pollution of the spring that produces the bubbly mineral water.

The bottling plant in Vergeze, in southern France, resumed production Monday after the investigation showed the benzene found in Perrier bottles in the United States were the result of an employee's erroneous use of the solvent to degrease equipment.

"The tests are all positive, that is normal," said Lemaigren. "There is no problem with our spring." (UPI)

**Charge dropped against Eleta:** The US attorney's office in Macon, Georgia has dropped its final charge against Panamanian industrialist Carlos Eleta Almaraz, wife drug agents once accused of being the kingpin of a drug ring.

US Attorney Edgar W. Ennis Jr. said Monday he asked US district judge Wilbur D. Owens to dismiss money laundering charges against Eleta because of lack of evidence. Two cocaine conspiracy charges were dropped in January for the same reason, he said.

Eleta, 71, was billed by drug agents as the head of a conspiracy to smuggle 1,320 pounds of cocaine a month into Macon and launder drug profits through dummy corporations. Eleta and two of his countrymen were arrested April 6 after a five-month investigation by the US Drug Enforcement Administration.

Europe

**Poles drop Russian lingo:** Starting in September, Polish students will no longer be required to study Russian, the Ministry of Education announced today.

Russian will continue to be offered, but there will be an increasing emphasis on Western languages, according to the announcement carried by the official PAP news agency.

However, Russian will remain a major part of the curriculum because there are so many Russian teachers and a shortage of those qualified in other languages, PAP said. (AP)

**Formal Vatican-Soviet ties reported:** The Soviet Union and the Vatican are expected to establish "permanent working contacts" — a step toward eventual full diplomatic relations — within the next few days, Vatican sources said Monday.

The sources, quoted by the Italian news agency Ansa, said an official announcement is expected "in a question of days."

A Vatican spokesman said he could not confirm the report, but referred reporters to what Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli said in Budapest last Friday when the Vatican and Hungary re-established full relations for the first time since 1945. (UPI)

**Lagerfeld could be up for sale:** West German designer Karl Lagerfeld's ready-to-wear business could be up for sale after his French owner indicated he was thinking of selling off his luxury goods interests.

Karl Lagerfeld's president Ralph Toledano said on Tuesday that his company had been studying its options since magate Philippe Bourrier said he was considering pulling out of the business group Cora-Reyillon out of luxury goods.

Lagerfeld, a prolific designer who as a fashion house stylist revived the fortunes of Chanel, signed a deal with Cora-Reyillon in 1987 allowing him to set up his own prêt-à-porter and fur business. (Reuters)

**Scouts male tradition ends:** British scouting has admitted its first three female members, ending an all-male tradition dating from its foundation in 1908.

Former Girl Guides Christine Wilson, 15, Gillian Ridley, 14, and Nicola Lowes, 14, were handed special certificates Monday night to mark their membership of the local scout troop at the village of Wark in the rugged county of Northumberland in northeast England.

The move follows the decision announced last Thursday by Britain's Chief Scout Garth Morrison to admit girls. (AP)

**Locomotives, train smash:** A convoy of four locomotives rolled past a red light and smashed into a stationary passenger train, causing a number of casualties on Monday, Tass news agency said in Moscow.

Inks car number in blood

**Gunned down**

AMSTERDAM, Feb 13, (Reuters): A Dutch supermarket owner gunned down by two masked robbers daubed the number of their get-away car on the shop door with his own blood.

The man, identified only as J. Koornse, was shot in the neck as he left the store with the day's takings, a police spokesman in Schiedam, near Rotterdam, said today.

His attackers ran off empty-handed leaving Koornse, 31, bleeding heavily on the ground. He crawled back to his store to get help and, unable to speak, wrote their car number with a bloody finger.

Police found the vehicle abandoned in Schiedam, the spokesman added.

Koornse is still in a serious condition in a Rotterdam hospital. Doctors said they were unable to operate immediately because he had lost so much blood.

Romanian opposition parties threaten to pull out of council Military demands resignation of ministers

BUCHAREST, Feb 13, (Agencies): Nearly 300 military officers demanding the resignations of the ministers of defence and interior protested silently today outside government headquarters on Victory Square.

The uniformed officers from the army, navy and air force said they wanted ministers untainted by December's revolution or by long association with ousted communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Defence Minister Gen. Nicolae Militaru held a series of high army posts before being demoted and pensioned off by Ceausescu, who was ousted Dec 22 and executed Dec 25.

He came out of retirement during the revolution and was named minister of defence by Interim President Ion Iliescu.

Interior Minister Gen. Mihai Chitac is a former commander of chemical warfare troops. The officers cited unconfirmed rumours that Chitac shot demonstrators in the western city of Timisoara, where the revolution began.

Some 700 regular soldiers from Valea Jiului in southwest Romania also demonstrated in the square, demanding that they be released from the army.

The soldiers, who worked in coal mines or on construction sites in the area, depending on where they were needed, said eight representatives were meeting with the government.

A group of 100 workers, shouting "where are our rights?" also demonstrated for changes in working conditions and higher salaries.

The protests took place as Romania's new power-sharing government, the provisional council of national unity, held its second meeting. The agenda included discussions on its exact role and operating procedures, and a report from Prime Minister Petre Roman on the state of Romania's battered economy.

Leaders of the major opposition parties threatened yesterday to pull out of the council if the previously dominant National Salvation Front that took power in the December revolution did not stop what the opposition charges is manipulation of the new body.

One major charge against the Front, which has said it will contest the free elections May 20 against the other, weaker opposition parties, has been its control of radio and television and alleged refusal to allow other parties access to those media.

An air force officer said that as long as Iliescu "chooses to have people next to him ex-generals, we do not agree with him." He said the air force had good, untainted officers who could replace the old generals.

A pilot said officers were angry that the pilot who flew the helicopter in which Ceausescu fled Bucharest on Dec 22, identified in press reports only as Lt. Col. Malutan, was not dismissed but instead promoted to full colonel.

Malutan was quoted in news reports after the revolution as saying he deliberately flew low in order to be detected by radar and thus prevent the Ceausescus' successful escape.

Today's protest followed a last night television broadcast in which the officers voiced their demands for the replacement of the two ministers, and came after unrest among military cadets last week.

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Second Japanese election predicted

TOKYO, Feb 13, (Reuters): Japan may have to hold another election later this year to break an expected political deadlock after next Sunday's crucial parliamentary poll, a top opposition party leader said today.

"I cannot help but feel that this election will fail to produce a clear-cut answer," Takashi Yonezawa, secretary-general of the centrist Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), told a news conference. "There might have to be another election later this year."

The conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is facing its toughest test in 34 years of rule in Sunday's election for parliament's powerful lower house.

Most analysts expect it to squeak in, but doubt whether its mandate will be big enough to convince the opposition parties who control the upper house to drop their call for abolition of an unpopular sales tax. That could lead to a political deadlock and paralyse parliament.

The LDP, battered by money and sex scandals and its support of the sales tax, lost control of the upper house last July for the first time in its 34-year history.

In a separate news conference today, LDP secretary-general Ichiro Ozawa said his party was confident of winning 235 seats in the 512-member lower house and called another 30 or so borderline.

The ruling party held 294 lower house seats in the last parliament.

If the LDP wins a majority, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu should hold on to power, Ozawa said.

Kaifu, who comes from the smallest of his party's five main factions, has been under attack from within his own party for weak leadership.

Some analysts do not expect him to last as prime minister until the end of the year.

The DSP's Yonezawa said the possibility of another election depended on a variety of factors, including Kaifu's ability to survive a move by his LDP rivals to unseat him.

Political analysts said former foreign minister Shintaro Abe was eager to replace Kaifu and had been manoeuvring to do so before the election was even called.

Yonezawa sounded pessimistic about the possibility of his party joining with the main opposition group, the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), to form a coalition after the election to rule Japan.



A Vietnamese couple wave hands to reporters as they prepare to board a chartered flight back to Hanoi Feb 13. (Reuters wirephoto)

Boat people rioting 3 refugees hurt in HK camp

HONG KONG, Feb 13, (Reuters): Mass rioting has broken out among thousands of Vietnamese boat people in one of Hong Kong's biggest detention centres, police said today.

Initial reports said fighting between rival groups at the Whitehead Detention Centre started at around 8.00 pm (1200 GMT) and was still going on two hours later.

"So far we have reports that three people have been injured and rushed to hospital. It's serious and the police there are asking for reinforcements. The rioters are using homemade weapons," said a police spokesman.

A government spokeswoman said at least 3,000 Vietnamese were involved in the fighting, but said it was not clear how the riot had started.

There are more than 20,000 Vietnamese boat people packed into Whitehead, a purpose-built camp near the town of Shatin in Hong Kong's new territory.

Camp workers have for months warned that tension is reaching breaking point in the camps as the Hong Kong government implements a policy of screening arrivals to determine whether they are genuine refugees or illegal immigrants, to be held pending deportation.

Morale in the overcrowded camps plunged last December when riot-policed police and prison guards rounded up 51 men, women and children at night and deported them forcibly to Vietnam.

The government has since been negotiating with Hanoi to regularly deport groups of those rejected as refugees, many of whom are held at Whitehead.

Police regularly turn up caches of home-made weapons in searches of the camps, including blunt tools sharpened into spears, and sheet metal made into machetes.

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Differences at Sino-HK talks Lack of confidence

BEIJING, Feb 13, (AP): Hong Kong members of a committee drafting a constitution for the British territory when it reverts to Chinese rule in 1997 alluded yesterday to growing problems with the Chinese side.

The 51 members of the basic law drafting committee are in Beijing this week for their ninth and final meeting, which is expected to produce a final revision of Hong Kong's mini-constitution for approval by China's National People's Congress next month.

At least two of the territory's 18 delegates mentioned in carefully chosen words Hong Kong's lack of confidence in the Chinese government and disagreements between the Hong Kong and Chinese sides of the pace of democratisation in the British territory.

"The Hong Kong delegates are patriotic, but they might have different ways of thinking," Dr Raymond Wu said after reporting to the committee on the work of the political system subgroup, in charge of deciding one of the most difficult issues facing Hong Kong.

"Although they may have harsh words, they are constructive, and (we) hope they (the Chinese side) can tolerate that," he said.

Last fall, China expelled two Hong Kong members of the committee after they denounced the Chinese leadership for its bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators last spring. The two members said they could not participate in drafting laws with the current government and called for a re-examination of the 1984 Sino-British agreement to hand the territory over to Beijing when London's lease runs out in 1997.

Hong Kong's Dr T.K. Ann, deputy chairman of the drafting committee, referred repeatedly in his opening statements to "the Beijing incident," pointedly refusing to use the official Chinese term for last spring's massive pro-democracy movement — "counter revolutionary rebellion."

Ann also referred several times to "the worries of the Hong Kong people about the future," and to "some issues over which there still are differences of opinion and controversy, like the political system" and other political questions.

S. Korean guardpost fired at

SEOUL, Feb 13, (AP): North Korean gunners fired 20 rounds at a South Korean guardpost today, on the eve of US Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney's arrival in South Korea and near an area he is expected to visit, officials said.

The US-led United Nations command in Seoul said South Koreans did not return the fire and no injuries were reported.

The shooting near the truce village of Panmunjom in the demilitarised zone between the two Koreas lasted several seconds, and it was not clear what type of weapons was used, US officials said.

It also was not clear whether the shooting was accidental or deliberate, and officials refused to speculate. Cheney is scheduled to visit Panmunjom and US troops near the DMZ on Friday, the third day of his visit.

"Any shooting in the DMZ is a serious violation," said a US official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "That it occurs on the eve of the visit of a US cabinet officer has to be considered in the investigation."

US Adm. Larry G. Vogt, senior United Nations command delegate to the military armistice commission, protested and demanded an immediate investigation by North Korea. The commission oversees the truce that ended the 1950-53 war between the two Koreas, divided since 1945 into the communist North and the capitalist South.

The Korean ministry of defence also said an investigation was underway.

Officials said the shooting occurred at 6.11 am (2111 GMT Monday) in an area 3.4 kilometres (1.8-2.5 miles) south-west of the joint security area at Panmunjom, the truce village in the DMZ where all North-South talks are held.

Interim govt in Greece sworn in

ATHENS, Feb 13, (Reuters): A caretaker government was sworn in today to lead Greece to a third national election in less than a year after an all-party coalition government collapsed.

Policy disagreements brought down the coalition of conservatives, socialists and communists which had governed the country since inconclusive elections in November.

It resigned yesterday, leaving a caretaker cabinet under the same prime minister, former Central Bank governor Xenophon Zolotas, to run the country until elections due on April 8.

After his new cabinet was sworn in, Zolotas, 85, said: "The new government is free of party guardianship and will be able to perform its duties better."

When the coalition resigned, conservative New Democracy Party leader Constantine Mitsotakis told reporters: "The caretaker government will accomplish more than the all-party coalition which was unable to make decisions and disagreed."

Mitsotakis, Socialist leader Andreas Papandreu and Communist President Harilaos Trikoupi joined forces on November 21 to avoid fresh elections and to tackle huge deficits crippling the economy.

But they often disagreed openly about internal affairs and foreign policy matters. Unpopular decisions on prices and taxation prompted a wave of strikes.

Rows over a taxation bill and decisions about military promotions and retirements prompted Mitsotakis to withdraw his ministers. Papandreu and Trikoupi followed suit.

The coalition partners agreed to keep Zolotas as caretaker prime minister and to support his non-political government until the April election.

Greece's problems include negotiations on whether to close US bases, strained relations with neighbouring Turkey and a budget deficit of more than two trillion drachmas (\$12.5 billion).

Mitsotakis drove Papandreu from office in elections last June after eight years of rule by Papandreu's Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek).

Capitalising on scandals surrounding Papandreu, Mitsotakis won 145 seats in the 300-seat Parliament but failed to get an absolute majority.

He formed a coalition with the communists solely to order Papandreu to stand trial on charges of illegal phone tapping and complicity in a bank embezzlement scandal while in office.

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Paris reds adamant

PARIS, Feb 13, (Reuters): The leadership of France's once-powerful Communist Party began a two-day meeting by ruling out a change of direction in response to its own decline and the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

Party reformers dissatisfied with its old-style hardline image have stepped up pressure for change and have called for the resignation of veteran General Secretary Georges Marchais.

"Communism is still to be conquered, we are in no hurry to change," central committee member Francette Lazard told reporters yesterday, first day of a meeting of the committee.

Marchais, 69, who has presided over a slump in his party's popularity since he took over the leadership in 1969, has accused "external elements" of stirring up trouble.

Lazard said other communist parties in Europe had collapsed because they were "deaf and blind to the needs and aspirations of their age."

Scandal-tainted Japanese company Recruit lays its past to rest though politicians still reeling

TOKYO, Feb 13, (Reuters): Japan's political elite is still struggling to throw off the effects of the country's biggest post-war scandal — but the Recruit company which started it all appears to have laid the past to rest.

Recruit has defied expectations that its business would suffer because of the scandal, in which most of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) leaders were implicated, and is preparing to announce a healthy 10 per cent profit for the fiscal year ending in March.

Recruit, whose former chairman still faces bribery charges in the shares-for-favours affair, also plans to launch new products.

"The scandal had some influence on business for a while," said Masahiro Mizuno, head of one of Recruit's

three magazine sales sections.

"But now I say it's going well and it's the truth," Recruit sees both net profit and sales for the parent company climbing roughly 10 per cent in the year to March 31, from a net profit of 36 billion yen (\$250 million) and sales of 269.2 billion yen (\$1.8 billion) the previous year.

Hironaka Ezoe, Recruit's charismatic founder, is accused of offering shares in real estate unit Recruit Cosmos as bribes before they were issued to the public.

The scandal, combined with an unpopular sales tax and allegations of sexual misconduct of former Prime Minister Sosuke Uno, cost the LDP control of the upper house of parliament for the first time since World War Two in elections last July.

It is likely to be one of the main factors in elections to the more powerful lower house on February 18. Two key defendants in the Recruit trial, which began late last year, are standing as candidates.

But at Recruit, which groups 27 publishing and telecommunications affiliates, it's time to move on.

"We do have to reflect on the question — who allowed it to happen?" Mizuno said. "But we can only focus on the future."

Recruit, whose main business is a string of employment, educational and other magazines, recently introduced a new magazine on domestic travel and another is on the way. But the company has had to work hard to restore its

image.

Magazine sales held steady when the scandal first broke in 1988 but some companies temporarily pulled adverts out of a magazine aimed at high school students, partly damaging profits.

The negative publicity may also have deterred potential employees. New recruits to the company dropped from 1,000 in April 1988 to 800 in April 1989 and to 500 this hiring season.

A Recruit spokesman denied the scandal was the main reason, saying employee growth had levelled off after five years of steep increases which peaked in 1988-89.

Some potential women employees may have faced family pressure against working for a tainted name.



Kaifu (foreground) offers a prayer. (Reuters wirephoto)

Japan's LDP

## Pentagon warns of Soviet meddling

WASHINGTON, Feb 13, (UPI): The Bush administration has issued a warning to Soviet leaders to keep their hands off the Third World despite the diminishing of tensions in Europe. The prediction that superpower rivalry would continue worldwide was contained in a 37-page "guidance" document that is intended to set policy for the US armed forces through 1997, and was obtained by the Post.

"While we now see some shift in Soviet methods, for example, from direct use of military force to more reliance on military assistance to client regimes, fundamental Soviet objectives in the Third World do not appear to have changed," the document says.

It points to "disturbing Soviet assistance to irresponsible or aggressive client states" such as Libya, North Korea, Cuba and Nicaragua, as well as continuing support for the imposition of an unwanted communist regime in Afghanistan.

The document, prepared under the direction of Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, appeared to reflect President Bush's muted reaction to the warning of communism in Eastern Europe and government changes in the Soviet Union. Bush has been widely criticised for failing to acknowledge the full significance of upheavals in East Germany, Romania and other Soviet client states.

A senior Defence Department official said the report was based on "highlights of the planning document," but neglected to reveal its emphasis on the continued rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union, the Post said.

The Pentagon plan calls for building "multi-purpose and reprogrammable" high technology weapons for future "military leverage" against the Soviet Union and other adversaries, the newspaper said.

It says the United States should "preclude the transfer of military significant technology and resources to the Soviet Union and seek ways to divert Soviet military resources into tasks relatively less efficient to them."

■ Bulgaria: The communist government rejected today an offer by Bulgaria's former king to return from exile and help rebuild the country, suggesting the monarch should mind his own business.

"There is no room for the revival of monarchist ideas in Bulgaria's public life," the government said in a statement carried by the communist party newspaper Rabotnichesko Delo.

■ Ruling communists yesterday rejected opposition demands to reform the judiciary, schools and health-care facilities, but refused to allow their removal from factories, the official BTA news agency said.

■ Poland: Only about 5,000 of the 2 million members of the now-dissolved Polish Communist Party have signed up to join the new Social Democracy Party, officials said yesterday.

The membership figure was revealed at a news conference by party chairman Aleksander Kwasniewski and general-secretary Leszek Miller.

■ Britain will help Poland try to solve its economic problems, particularly its huge foreign debt, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said.

Mrs Thatcher spoke after meeting for more than two hours with Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki of Poland.

Mrs Thatcher said Britain would look at Poland's \$30 billion debt both on its own and through the Paris club of 17 creditor nations. Next week in Paris, Poland will ask Western governments to reschedule and ease its debt burden.

Mrs Thatcher and Mazowiecki also discussed Poland's bid to join the Council of Europe, a 23-nation group that promotes European unity, and its efforts to obtain an association agreement with the European Economic Community.

■ Mongolia: The Central Committee of the Mongolian Communist Party and the country's Parliament will meet next month to discuss electoral reform, the country's leader was quoted as saying today.

Party chief Zhambyn Batmunkh told a meeting of regional officials last week that a plenary session of the Central Committee would be held on March 20, Tass news agency quoted Mongolia's Umen newspaper as saying.

# Bush rejects equal level troops cut

## Nato and Warsaw Pact ministers discuss two-plus-four concept

WASHINGTON, Feb 13, (Agencies): President Bush rejected a Soviet counterproposal on superpower troop cuts yesterday, dismissing a call for equal levels in Europe because of the distance separating the United States from its NATO allies.

While claiming "solid progress in pushing the US-Soviet agenda forward" toward a planned June summit, Bush held to a Jan 31 call for asymmetric troop limits in Europe in response to a Soviet offer of reductions to equal levels.

During a White House news conference, he opposed that principle of "exact linkage," but said he otherwise was "very pleased" with the reaction of

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to his earlier call for deeper troop cuts.

"I wouldn't call it an impasse," Bush said. "This is the way it works when you're discussing these arms control things."

Progress in arms control was only one of several reasons Bush gave for halting last week's "extraordinary and positive" in East-West relations, capped by talks in Moscow between Secretary of State James Baker and top Soviet leaders.

"I am confident," he said, "that if we continue this kind of momentum in our bilateral relationship with the Soviet Union, that the June summit will be a major success."

Satisfied some nagging obstacles had been overcome, Bush expressed hope that accords on chemical, conventional and strategic force cuts can be "substantially completed" by the summit, which is to be held in the United States.

At the same time, however, he acknowledged continued differences between East and West not only on troop counts in Europe, but perhaps thornier issue of German reunification.

Bush applauded Gorbachev for showing "a real flexibility" unseen just months ago in declaring last week that reunification, long opposed by the Soviet Union, should be left to the Ger-

man people. However, Bush refused to yield on the US insistence, shared by West German Chancellor Kohl, that Germany remain a member of Nato.

Bush noted postwar fears by many Europeans "that a neutral Germany unencumbered by political alliances would pose a military threat to its neighbours."

"It's a concern that would be allayed by having a unified Germany inside of Nato," he said.

Nato and Warsaw Pact foreign ministers yesterday discussed an evolving diplomatic concept dubbed "two-plus-four" that aims to keep the accelerating process of German reunification from spinning out

of control.

The "two" in the formula represents the two Germans, according to US officials in the Canadian capital for an international conference. East Germany would be represented only after national German elections set for March 18 demonstrated the legitimacy of its government, they said.

The remaining "four" refers to the major World War II allies — Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States — who according to the concept would "advise" the two Germans on major decisions involving German external relations.

The still-evolving concept

would enable the Germans to retain their own sovereignty as they enter the process of reunification but also to heed the fears and uncertainties of neighbouring nations that were ravaged during the Nazi occupation — the last time there was a strong and unified Germany.

The four powers would meet to advise the Germans on the global impact of German decisions on, for instance, Nato membership and other military issues, said the US officials, who asked for anonymity.

President Bush mentioned the "two-plus-four" concept without explanation yesterday in his Washington news conference.

## DM to be legal tender in GDR

### Modrow-Kohl discuss monetary union

BONN, Feb 13, (Agencies): West and East Germany agreed today to set up a committee to work out details of monetary union, which would include making the West German mark legal tender in East Germany.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told a news conference the committee would start work next week to avoid losing any more time.

He said the committee, which he and East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow agreed to establish during talks here, would work out the details of the move, including the introduction of the powerful West German mark in the East.

"We know the risks of this path clearly," he said.

But Modrow said today that his talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl failed to produce any immediate steps toward reunification or a common currency.

## German reunification Soviet caution

MOSCOW, Feb 13, (Reuters): The Soviet Union cautioned yesterday against an over-enthusiastic interpretation of the Kremlin's position on West and East German reunification.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news conference the interests of East and West Germany's neighbours and the four World War Two allies must be considered.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev told visiting West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the weekend it was up to East and West Germany themselves to decide how and at what speed to merge.

Gerasimov said Western press and official commentary on Gorbachev's meeting with Kohl was "somewhat one-sided and euphoric."

"Yes, we said that the question of German national unity should be decided by the Germans themselves. They should fix the time limits and terms," Gerasimov said.

But this is not all there is to it. It is necessary to reckon with the interests of Europe and with East-West relations and stability in Europe," he said.

A German reunification of any kind to territories lost to the East in World War Two would help the unity process, he added.

The official news agency Tass, in a commentary, also stressed the "inviolability" of post-war borders as a pre-condition for German unity.

A neutral, united Germany would be unacceptable, destabilising and dangerous, Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner was quoted today as saying.



Rostropovich returns

Alexander Solzhenitsyn has promised to return to the Soviet Union but only when his once-reviled books are freely available, cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, a close friend of the Nobel-prize winning author, said on Monday.

Rostropovich, who returned to Moscow on Sunday for the first time since he defected in 1974, sheltered Solzhenitsyn in his Moscow country home at the height of the official campaign against the author of "The Gulag Archipelago" in the 1970s.

Solzhenitsyn, expelled from the Soviet Union in 1974, had given him a message when he visited him in his United States exile home in Vermont, Rostropovich told a press conference.

Rostropovich left the country after he fell out of favour with the authorities for sheltering Solzhenitsyn, some of whose works are now being published in the Soviet Union.

The cellist, in Moscow to conduct the Washington National Symphony Orchestra, has campaigned for the return of Solzhenitsyn's citizenship.

Rostropovich and his wife, Soprano Galina Vishnyevskaya, were given back their citizenship last month. Picture shows Rostropovich plays Dvorak's 'Cello concerto' during rehearsal in Moscow. (Reuters wirephoto)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

university and high school students marching into downtown Niamey.

The government says police killed three people and wounded 33 in the confrontation. Students put the death toll at 12.

A government statement said the cabinet ordered the closing of all secondary schools and Niamey University, which had effectively closed down on Thursday when students started protesting. (AP)

Civil wars threaten famine: Famine threatens over 15 million people in four African countries wracked by civil war, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said yesterday.

There was little damage to African crops from locusts and grasshoppers and most countries will have enough to eat because of good harvests in 1989, a special FAO report on food supplies in sub-Saharan Africa said.

But it warned: "Famine conditions are emerging in northern Ethiopia, southern and western Sudan and large areas of Mozambique and Angola."

The food supply situation is stable in most countries. Some others with bumper harvests would need help from donors to export their surplus production, it added. (Reuters)



Kohl (right) and Modrow smile during their meeting in Bonn for reunification talks. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Power for Gorbachev

### 'Private property OK'

## Marx 'killed'

MOSCOW, Feb 13, (AP): The Communist Party has rejected some of the principal tenets of Marxism and embraced the principle of private property.

"The Communist Party of the Soviet Union believes that the existence of individual property, including ownership of the means of production, does not contradict the modern stage in the country's economic development," says a new party platform, published by the official news agency Tass.

The platform, approved Feb 7 but not published in final form until yesterday, is Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's boldest break with communist orthodoxy and contradicts public statements he made just months ago. It said the party took into account the new hunger of Soviet citizens for democracy and reform, expressed in rallies by thousands of people and local political organising all over the country.

In language closer to that of 19th-century liberalism than to Leninism, the document declared allegiance to:

■ "Protection of a citizen's personality and honour, the immunity of his home and property, the secrecy of correspondence."

■ "Citizens' participation in running the affairs of society and the state, freedom of speech, the press, meetings and demonstrations and the formation of public organisations."

■ "Man's free self-determination in the spiritual sphere, the freedom of conscience and religion."

■ A strong presidency that would further erode the power of the party apparatus in favour of the government. Party officials previously announced that they would give up their constitutional monopoly on power.

Soviet laws long have promised wide political freedoms, but they have been held back by the party's dominance of every aspect of life and its intolerance of any challenge. But Gorbachev and reformers still must make their revolution work on the local level, where people have almost no experience with self-government and still face well-entrenched bureaucrats.

It was in economics, the foundation of Marxist theory, that the party made its strongest break with both its ideological heritage and decades of Soviet practice.

Marxist theory holds that factories and other means of producing goods must be owned by the state rather than individuals because private ownership inevitably results in one man exploiting the labour of another.

In a departure from one of the Marxist slogans once used to justify rule by terror and liquidation of the middle class, the party dismissed the concept of a "dictatorship of the proletariat," saying: "The rule-of-law state of the whole people has no room for dictatorship by any class."

The platform made clear that individual ownership would be permitted as one of a variety of types of priority. In remarkably clear language, it said that control of state-owned property should be turned over to workers by leasing, contracts, joint-stock holdings and other methods.

Private property could face stiff resistance in many parts of the country, where state schools have preached its evils for generations. Sociologist Tatyana Zaslavskaya told Tass last week that while 80 per cent of the population of Latvia, a small Baltic republic, approve of private property, the attitude was exactly the opposite in many other areas.

The young Soviet state under Lenin's leadership confiscated most private property after the 1917 revolution, and Stalin's drive to strip peasants of their land through collectivisation in the 1930s cost millions of lives through famine, deportation and summary execution.

The platform bowed to Marxist theory by proclaiming that any form of property must prevent man's alienation from production or exploitation. But it made no effort to define either term.

reporters, adding that he had asked the UN envoy on religious intolerance to examine the three countries thoroughly.

Smith said China, while denying violating human rights, had recently arrested several Catholic bishops, priests, deacons and laymen, and closed unofficial churches. Buddhist monks in Tibet had been arrested, he said.

The 43-nation commission, now holding a six-week meeting, has no power to enforce its regulations and relies on the glare of publicity to change government's ways.

One diplomat said that despite Bush's reluctance to offend China, Western delegates were trying to push through a resolution critical of Beijing.

## US accuses China, Nepal, Iran of persecution

GENEVA, Feb 13, (Reuters): The United States today accused China, Nepal and Iran of persecuting religious minorities, in charges made to the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Congressman Christopher Smith, a Republican from New Jersey, delivered the charges on behalf of the US delegation to the human rights body during its annual review of violations around the world.

Smith, chosen by President George Bush as a US representative, said the US State Department had cleared his speech and agreed with it.

"I think we can be a little more aggressive in trying to discern truth from fiction in this connection," he told

## E. Bloc denying help to radicals

VIENNA, Feb 13, (AP): The fall of hardline communist governments across Eastern Europe will deprive the PLO and other Arab groups of weapons and training.

Until recently, Romania, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Poland provided varying degrees of material and political support to the Palestine Liberation Organisation and other groups. The aid has now been halted or reduced.

"These countries provided training, weapons, served as host facilities for radical organisations and sometimes provided sabotage materials," said Mark Heller, an analyst at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies in Israel.

"I wouldn't be surprised if that activity stopped completely," he added.

Poland, under the new government of Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki, last year withdrew a small spend it gave to the PLO's diplomatic mission in Warsaw.

Czechoslovakia used to export \$540 million worth of arms a year — some of it to the Middle East — but will halt all weapons exports when present agreements expire, Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier says.

Polish officials say Warsaw intends to treat every Arab country equally and that ideology has been eliminated as a factor in Polish foreign relations.

Krzysztof Plominski, the Foreign Ministry's deputy department director for Arab and African affairs, last month said Poland "opposes any form of terrorism."

US government sources reported in early 1988 that the terrorist Abu Nidal had used a Warsaw trading office as a front for his organisation. The office was closed, apparently at request of the Polish government.

Czechoslovak and Romanian officials deny any aid to Arab radicals since their revolutions.

"Yes, there was military and training support to Libyans, but all of that has been suspended today," a Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry official told the Associated Press. He spoke on condition his name not be used.

Czechoslovak officials said training camps for hundreds of Libyans and other Arab radicals existed in at least one Interior Ministry school near Kladno, 32 kms (20 miles) west of Prague. They said it is now closed.

According to the Israeli government press office, East Germany also provided training to PLO men, some of it was at the Friedrich Engels Academy in Dresden.

In addition to helping radicals fight, Czechoslovakia and other countries often supplied material help to Mideast and North African countries.

At least \$1 billion worth of Czechoslovak machinery and construction projects were provided to Arab countries, according to official figures in Prague.

Romania, which from the late 1970s trained hundreds of PLO commandos at bases in the Black Sea port of Constanta, the southern town of Calarasi and near Bucharest, said in January it had abrogated agreements concluded by toppled communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

## SERVICE MANAGER

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(3) Must be profit motivated and able to develop good customer relationship and knowledge of normal administration including independent office routine, cost control and preparation of budgets and warranty procedures.

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## Counterfeit coins

A team of Japanese investigators met with Swiss police experts through the day today as part of efforts to trace the origin of 105,000 counterfeit gold coins commemorating the late Emperor Hirohito.

Roland Hauenstein, spokesman for Switzerland's Federal public prosecutor's office, said the discussions "took place within the context of normal international co-operation."

Hauenstein said Japan so far had not made any official request for Swiss government legal assistance in the affair — the fake coins had a face value of 100,000 yen or \$690 apiece. (AP)

## Nigerian students protest

Nigerian students marched into the centre of the capital on Monday to protest the killing of three students by police last week.

But President Ali Saibou's military cabinet, continuing an emergency meeting begun during the weekend, praised the "valor of the forces of law and order" that broke up Friday's rally.

Several unions, including teachers and miners, went on strike on Monday to protest the action by police, who Friday opened fire to prevent about 3,000

## Co-ops stress commitment to keep prices stable

### Consumers will be protected

THE director-general of the Kuwait Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies Abdul Latif Al Kharazeh has stressed the commitment by societies to current prices.

He told a local daily that the statement issued by the union on Jan 30, 1990 was made in the wake of raised queries about the role of the union and societies in raising consumer commodity prices, following the increase in pay to civil servants.

He said that due to the international price rise of most food and consumer products, the union had taken up the matter with the relevant authorities at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Social Affairs and Labour in an attempt to agree on a way to control any individual or forced price increases. Further, to take the necessary measures to ensure that the going prices were convenient to both dealer and consumer.

Kharazeh said that the union had reduced the prices of certain essential commodities during the last month, adding that the constraints applied by the union to control price increase involved the need by the dealer to produce officially documented and attested bills, copy of the letter of credit, manifesto, currency exchange rate certificate and other documents proving the proposed price increase.

He said that factors responsible for the price increase, included increases in the production cost, related raw material or fluctuations of currency exchange rates and others, in the country of origin.

He said the union would agree with the suppliers to reduce prices of certain consumer commodities to ensure successful marketing of overstocks. The variance in price between one society and another is the result of an arithmetical mistake in the calculation of the price fixed by the Union,

pointing out that the strength and power of the society gave each an individual privilege in its negotiation with the supplier, which was also responsible for price disparity.

#### Protection

Meanwhile, the assistant under-secretary for supply affairs and consumer protection Abdullah Al Mulla has denied rumours about the possible connivance of inspectors and dealers that undermined the latter's performance.

He said that the ministry was endeavouring hard to tighten its protection of consumers against the price manipulation of dealers, stressing the need by consumers to show vigilance and care to avoid falling prey to unscrupulous dealers.

He said that customers had the right to see a price label attached to the commodity, and if they failed to see one, they

have every right to ask the dealer to fix a price tag on the merchandise.

Inspectors endeavoured to catch dealers selling their goods at prices higher than the fixed prices or those who failed to comply with hygienic standards, and other violations as reported daily by customers, Mulla said.

He added that butchers selling beef slaughtered in Kuwait at a high price claiming that the imported German beef is in violation of commercial law and therefore punishable under the provisions of this law.

He urged all customers to report to the nearest consumer protection centre any violation, so that arrangements would be initiated to punish the concerned butcher.

He pointed out that the ministry employed a policy of regular circulation of inspectors every six months to avoid fraternising with butchers.

## Kuwait on warpath to keep Aids at bay

### All blood tested for virus

By Lima Al Khalafawi  
Arab Times staff

NO DISEASE has shaken up and frightened the people of the world and no disease in modern years has proven so elusive to medical sleuths as "Aids" — acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Kuwait is the first country in the Middle East to import medical equipment to confirm the Aids virus in the early stages and also preceded many European countries in this respect, according to Abdul Aziz Al Basheer, director of the Blood Bank at the Ministry of Public Health and head of the Arab Scientific Consultative Authority for Arab Blood Banks.

Headed that Kuwait stopped imported blood before the discovery of Aids as it was convinced that blood donations in these countries are of a commercial nature and consequently of low quality.

The State of Kuwait which takes pride in being in the forefront of ensuring "par excellence medical facilities — free at that" for citizens and expatriates is deeply committed to ensuring that all financial means, expertise concentrated R&D activities, seminars, symposiums and a concentrated public awareness are undertaken.

#### Influx

The region had never known the disease, but with the influx of expatriates, virtually overnight a lethal fast-acting degenerative disease has leaped into the Kuwaiti medical headlines.

It is causing a "trauma" to authorities who obviously have always prided themselves for maintaining the highest standards of public health within the framework of the directives of the Ministry of Public Health.

The logistic problems of screening all expatriates who enter the country is proving to be an uphill and Herculean task. However, the Arab Times has it from very authoritative sources that: "No stone will be left unturned to ensure that the dreaded disease is kept at bay and every effort has been made and will continue to be expended to safeguard the health of Aids into Kuwait."

Speaking as head of the Arab Scientific Consultative Authority for Blood Banks, Basheer, said that he had tried to prevent import of blood from outside Arab countries, but failed to achieve what Kuwait had achieved, because other Arab countries insisted on importing blood from foreign countries until the appearance of Aids.

However, he clarified that Aids cases appearing in the neighbouring countries were not caused by sexual relations, but because of infected imported blood.

The Arab authority issued a decision in November 1988 to stop the import of blood, but the decision was acknowledged as having been introduced a bit late as opposed to Kuwait's decision which was taken in 1988.

Kuwait depends on local blood donations, though it consumes huge quantities of blood, the official said and added that on occasions Kuwait does suffer from a shortage, specially in rare blood groups or groups that are frequently in demand. This problem is overcome by contacting donors on whom the bank has a file. Such blood donated is subjected to a battery of medical tests before being approved for transfusion.

Kuwait tries to help all Arab countries through exchange of information and said that he

believed that the states in the region have achieved self-sufficiency in blood and all have blood banks.

Basheer pointed out that the Arab authority was set up by the Arab health ministries and has full authority to develop services of blood donations in all Arab countries. It organises a seminar every two years in an Arab country. Continuous contacts are also maintained among directors of Arab blood banks to develop their services, he said.

The blood bank in Kuwait discovered two cases of Aids since the bank began testing blood for the Aids virus in 1985-86. The bank stores donated blood in two forms — in one the blood is stored in liquid form and can be preserved for 36 days and the other is by freezing which lasts for three to four years.

The bank collects blood every year in a special programme by despatching special mobile donation units to universities, companies and ministries to enlighten people about the importance of donations. He added that if each individual donated blood only once a year, the blood bank would have a surplus and it would be a boon to many patients.

#### Maternity

Commenting on fears of getting Aids at the Maternity Hospital and centres, Dr Mufaida Ghannam (specialist in blood diseases) denied rumours which claim that maternity hospital and centres are probably places of getting infected with the Aids virus. She added that not a single case of a newborn baby has been reported at the maternity hospitals in Kuwait of carrying Aids.

Aids annihilates the body's immune system, leaving the victim prey to a multitude of infectious agents. Although drugs may limit such opportunistic infections, the victims severely weakened immunity leaves them vulnerable to one illness after another.

The incubation period for Aids (the time between infection and the onset of symptoms) varies from a few months to several years. If like many diseases, Aids turns out to be contagious during the incubation state, of the thousands of victims who feel perfectly healthy today, each could be infecting numerous others through intimate or sexual contact.

The killer disease is now called "the new leprosy", because it makes victims outcasts in their own circle and invokes fear among medical personnel who must treat them.

A religious leader speaking on the issue said that the disease has appeared as a warning sign to mankind that it is tampering with the laws of God that govern the social, the spiritual, the sexual life of humanity. He added: "God's laws give boundaries to right and wrong actions and attitudes. They give directions and protection to the achievement of wholesome human, social and spiritual needs and goals. We should take heed of these laws, before it is too late, the preacher said."

It is time this generation of the world awoke to the curses that have been brought on society by a misguided sexual revolution that promises freedom, but has produced a new form of slavery — Aids.

## WHO praises efforts

KUWAIT, Feb 13, (Kuna): Two health experts have praised Kuwait's efforts in the health fields and classified Kuwait as one of the world's best in fighting contagious and other diseases.

Representative of the WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, Dr Mohamed Hilmi Wahdan said Kuwait, which now hosts the 3rd international conference on acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes (Aids), has given great attention to the fatal disease and has taken part in world consultative organisations undertaking campaigns against Aids worldwide.

Addressing a press conference on the sidelines of the Arab conference, the official said Kuwait had established the first regional Centre to dispense human and material assistance to programmes for fighting Aids in the poor countries.

Tracing the history of the fatal illness, Dr Wahdan said its discovery in the Eastern Mediterranean countries came five years behind Europe and the US adding the main cause of spread of the disease came from imported plasma.

He warned against blood transfusion, saying a state like Iraq did not witness spread of the disease because it wholly depends on local blood donations and does not import plasma from abroad.

On the number of cases, Dr Wahdan said the WHO received reports of 215,000 Aids cases until last month from 153 world countries. According to medical reports until last September, 322 cases were registered in 23 Arab and Islamic countries, including one case in Kuwait and 113 cases in Sudan, representing the highest numbers of cases in this group of states.

The WHO official attributed reason for wide spread of the disease in Sudan to the fact that the country borders seven African states with the highest rate of infection with the killer disease such as Kenya, Zaire, Djibouti and Somalia.

African countries come at the top of those suffering from Aids followed by the Arab Maghreb States, excepting Libya, where more than one million Moroccan and Tunisian labourers are living in France and through whom the disease is transferred to their countries.

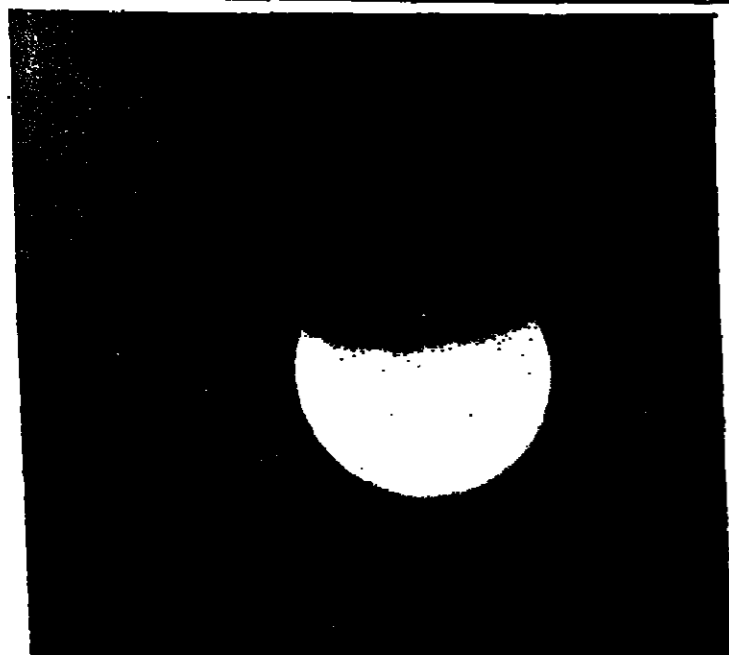
The WHO expert also warned that the disease attacks drug addicts, particularly through use of the same syringes, as well as through illegal sexual intercourse.

Risk of contracting the disease through syringes increased over the past two years from half percentage point to 14 per cent, Dr Wahdan indicated, explaining that all states in the region had tightened control of blood tests and launched public awareness campaigns against the incurable disease.

Director of the WHO's programme to fight Aids, Dr Jonathan Mann also addressed the press conference, which was attended by members of the Kuwait National anti-Aids Committee Dr Hussein Momen and Rashid Al Awash as well as head of the conference's organising committee Dr Kazim Behbehani.

Dr Mann also praised Kuwait's important role in transfer and exchange of data among member-countries of the regional group and warned against the rising rate of cases during this decade.

The WHO expert said the best way so far is taking protective measures and educating people on the dangers of this fatal disease.



Lunar eclipse

An amateur member of the Kuwait Science Club managed to shoot pictures of the total lunar eclipse that occurred last Friday Feb 9, despite the cloud-filled sky and continuous rainfall.

Picture on the left shows Phase I of the eclipse and the other shows the moon in total eclipse.

## 122 buildings of historical importance

WITHIN its third cultural season, Kuwait Municipality organised a seminar on the theme of "Preservation of Historical Buildings" which called on officials concerned to pay more attention to preserving these buildings and confirmed the importance of encouraging the active participation of the private sector.

The seminar held on Sunday was attended by Nizar Al Anjani and Waleed Al Jassam from the construction evaluation department of Kuwait Municipality.

Speaking at the seminar, Jassam said that Kuwait Municipality had enacted a law in 1988, calling for the protection of historical buildings. He said that the Constructional Design Department at Kuwait Municipality had recently conducted a general field survey over an extended period of eight months during which about 122 buildings had been identified as being of historical importance.

The study covered buildings affiliated to the State Public Domains Department in addition to those affiliated to the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Electricity and Water.

He added that another technical working team will undertake studies for renovating historical buildings in co-operation with the state authorities concerned. The municipality had empowered a consultant to make the necessary designs of Al Amir market taking into account the layouts in addition to incorporating the necessary facilities.

The MPW will supervise the design and implementation works of the meat, vegetable and Al Gharabli markets which were demolished by the municipality, Jassam said.

## Commercial exchange main vehicle for economy: Faqih

### Arab productivity base poor

ENHANCING commercial exchanges among Arab countries could constitute the main vehicle for realising economic coordination and push forward the economic wheel of Arab countries, Osama Al Faqih, chairman and director-general of the Abu Dhabi based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) said.

In an interview with a local daily, the official criticised the low-level of Arab commercial operation and commented that the highest percentage of inter-Arab exports amounted to about nine per cent of total exports. He added that this percentage had dropped to 7.4 per cent in 1988. Conversely, he said that the inter-Arab imports had reached their highest peak in 1981 with 10.3 per cent of the total Arab

imports and this had dropped to 7.7 per cent in 1981.

Speaking at an economic symposium held recently, the official attributed this phenomenon to the shortage in the Arab productivity base and to the lack of identification of the productivity structure of the Arab countries.

He went on to state that the Arab economic scenario during the last decade is mainly represented in the drop in oil prices and the persistence of sluggish economic factors, in addition to the deficit in the balance of payments. This has resulted in most countries paying more concern to the export sector to enhance its competitive capacity in foreign markets. Hence, these countries had reviewed their export policy by giving a broader

role to the private sector, within the framework of economic development policies.

To realise the objective of the commercial exchange among the member states, the official called for setting up of a general framework for organising economic and commercial relations among Arab countries in addition to removing customs obstacles.

On the other hand, the official said that the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC) is striving to provide necessary guarantees to export trusts which aim at providing additional incentives for the Arab exporters and importers.

The official called for the provision of the necessary financing for the Arab trade.

## Kuwait major fast-food centre in Gulf

By Yakub Razaque  
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT has become a major fast-food market in the Gulf for affluent and middle class consumers of varying age-groups in the wake of increasingly changing trends of eating habits precipitated by the fact that a growing number of employed married women have little or no time for cooking meals at home, according to a top executive of a leading Kuwait fast-food organisation.

General El Sergani, sales manager, Kuwait Food Company (KFC), told the Arab Times in an interview that Western style fast-food, particularly in the American tradition, has been popular in Kuwait since the trend was first introduced in this

country in the late sixties. He said that fast-food has become big business in Kuwait today involving a multi-million dinar industry, taking a substantial share in the manufacture and sales of the food industry in the country.

"Urban Kuwaiti as well as some expatriate women are being employed increasingly alongside their husbands. As a consequence there leaves very little time for these working women, who also have children, to return from their duties and prepare meals for their family."

The fast-food concept is an ideal solution though expensive for such circumstances. Working families find it quite convenient to order fast-food as it is either already cooked and ready to eat or in most cases dishes require

only 5 minutes for heating and consumption," said Sergani, who is in Bahrain representing his company KFC in the Sixth Middle East Food and Equipment Exhibition (Mefex '90).

The Kuwait Food Company executive explained that Kuwait probably boasts of more fast-food outlets than anywhere else in the region offering a wide variety of fast-food dishes representing both Western and local tastes. KFC owns and operates about 100 such outlets in the country alone.

Kuwait Food Company, the largest fast-food company in Kuwait, is reputed to be a pioneer in this type of business in the Middle East. The giant food company, employing over 1,500 workers, accredits its success to

its policy of introducing new products at regular intervals to its consumers giving them wider choice of dishes. The company has an annual production capacity of about 5,000 tonnes of cake and 8,000 tonnes of meat in its two factories. Today KFC holds the franchise of major American fast-food giants such as Kentucky Fried Chicken, Hardee's, Chicken Tikka and the British Wimpy throughout the Gulf and the Middle East.

Kuwait's leading fast-food company is participating in Mefex '90 with a view to promote its brand of American products and to become familiar with new concepts in marketing and technology in both manufacture and sales of fast-food products in the region, said its sales manager.

## Children's festival planned in March

THE Child Culture Section at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters is organising a children books and games festival in March 1990.

The festival technical supervisor, Ala Jaber stated that the technical team for inspecting the safety and contents of games and books include a number of committees headed by the head of the Child Culture Section, Amal Al Ghanem. These committees take over the duties of receiving books and games and testing them. He pointed out that there are three committees which specialise in inspecting books and games, namely the foreign books committee, the Arab books committee and the games committee. He added that special index of the books on display will be published by a special committee formed to serve that purpose.

On the other hand, head of the Child Culture Section, Amal Al Ghanem said that the wrong books play a dangerous role in the child raising process. Some toys and games may include dangerous materials and may influence a child's behaviour, she added.

Regarding the new work plan, Ghanem stated that some of the membership items, and conditions were modified in order to serve the interest of public. These conditions and terms were announced and published in August, 1989. She pointed out that a special work team was formed since last November to test and receive books and games.

Ghanem pointed out that the local contains many harmful books and games for children which were not subjected to committees tests and inspection. Some of the books were constantly disallowed by these committees which has forced some companies to cancel their membership to the festival.



Traffic safety lecture

At the Traffic Awareness Campaign organised by the public relations department of the Ministry of Interior, Major Yaqoub Al Fadhal, head of the Awareness and Guidance Department delivered a lecture on child traffic safety which will be the unified emblem of the Gulf Traffic Week.

The lecture delivered at Um Burda Primary School for girls in Jahra educational area included traffic safety fundamentals and methods applied to protect children against traffic accidents.

The official called on the public to preserve public utilities and gave a brief explanation on safety and security measures at households to prevent accidents to children.

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## Interior Ministry reports 1,379 thefts in '88 1,423 misdemeanours

STATISTICS by the Ministry of Interior report 1,379 thefts in 1988 compared to 1,279 in 1987. The ministry reported 20 murder cases, 110 attempts to murder, 34 cases of possession of weapons without licenses, five abortion attempts and 124 cases of kidnapping or attempts to kidnap in 1988. Additionally there were 678 crimes of honour, 238 cases of assault, 114 adultery cases, 13 illegal pregnancies, 4 cases of homosexuality, 16 cases of sexual assault, 112 cases of trading in liquor and 167 cases of trading in

narcotics. Further, there were 2,885 cases of misappropriation of funds and issuing of dud cheques, 248 cases of forgery, 9 cases of bribery and 62 cases of intentional fires.

Meanwhile, the Misdemeanours Court passed sentence in 1,423 cases, 36 for assault, 159 adultery, 659 harassment via telephone, three illegitimate cases, 590 for consumption of alcohol and 12 for consumption of narcotics during the year 1988, statistics said.

## Stewardess commits suicide in Bahrain

By Yakub Razaq  
Arab Times staff

A SENIOR air stewardess of a British airline committed suicide early this week by plunging herself from the top floor of a hotel window.

Mrs Stella Francis Ann Leynes, aged 36, threw herself from the eleventh floor of the Diplomat Hotel, Sunday morning, official reports confirmed. Mrs Leynes, maiden name Mulla, who was married with no children, left a brief note complaining of feeling sick for sometime and was "depressed". It has been said that she apparently jumped from the window of her room in the five-star hotel in the diplomatic area in Manama. Her body landed on the first floor of the hotel's outbuilding and death was instantaneous.

According to Ministry of Interior the victim's death is being officially treated as suicide based on her hand-written note and lack of any evidence of foul-play. The stewardess' door to her room was locked from the inside and the window was found to be wide open.

**Shock**  
Mrs Leynes had been working for Britannia Airways since 1978. In 1986 she was promoted to senior stewardess. The Irish-born victim was one of seven crew scheduled to fly out to Singapore, yesterday evening. The crew arrived in Bahrain aboard flight BY764 at 9:20 pm Friday from London airport in southern England.

Local press reports indicated that Mrs Leynes' death astonished both her management and colleagues. According to Britannia Airways press officer, Richard Hedges, the victim had an exemplary record at Britannia and was well-thought of by her colleagues. He said the incident had installed "shock and surprise" among staff of the airline here.

An informed source from the CID told the Arab Times that Mrs Leynes' body landed on one side. Based on photographs taken of the corpse at the site of the tragedy the victim's face had been smashed on one side caused by the impact of the fall.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior has dismissed as "total fabrication" of British newspaper report that Mrs Leynes had been murdered. The tabloid Daily Mirror is said to have quoted a witness of seeing out on the victim's throat. It was alleged that the stewardess, apparently wearing a dressing gown, had been thrown out of the window.

## Saudi missing in Bangkok

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 13, (Kuna): A Saudi national has been missing in the Thai capital of Bangkok since yesterday, according to a report reaching here this evening.

The report quoted Thai police spokesman as saying the missing Saudi national has been identified as Mohammed Al Alalay, a businessman.

The report said Mohammed worked for a job placement agency which sent Thai workers to Saudi Arabia.

**Pakistan envoy**  
KUWAIT, Feb 13, (Kuna): Pakistan's Justice Minister Iftikhar Hussain Jeelani will arrive in Kuwait today as special envoy of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Jeelani is carrying a message to His Highness the Amir from Bhutto, which he is expected to deliver tomorrow.



Awadi (second right) opening the conference.

## Pharmaceutical conference Role of the clinical pharmacist reviewed

By Lima Al Khalafawi  
Arab Times staff

THE Third Kuwait Pharmaceutical Science Conference aims at showing the latest developments in the pharmaceutical services, according to the Acting Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi.

Awadi in an opening address Monday, said that this new trend of the pharmacist in directly dealing with the patient along with the medical team, substitutes the old concept of the pharmacist as dealing only with medicine and chemical substances. He added that clinical pharmaceutical specifications depends on the pharmacist's role to give advice to patients and doctors on the proper treatment and also to point out the side effects.

A research paper on the role of the clinical pharmacist in drug interactions was presented by Prof. El Sebai A. Ibrahim of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Jordan University of Science and Technology. Sebai said that it is common that a patient may take more than one drug concomitantly. Multiple drug administration is frequent in surgical, infected, and other patients. In such cases drug interactions are possible and often necessary.

The response to drug-interactions are quite different. In some cases, combination increases intensity response or efficacy, decreases doses and toxicity whereas other combination cases antagonises side effects, effects elimination or alter absorption. Fixed combination of drugs is also common, patients are different in their responses or sensitivity to drugs and adjustments in dosage or dose interval may be necessary.

**Monitoring**  
He added that the clinical pharmacist has a lot to do with the above drug types of interactions depending on his scientific background and experience. He is responsible for serving as a source of drug information to the physician and allied health professionals, monitoring the drug utilisation by the patient.

A review of the development of clinical pharmacy services at King Khalid University Hospital (KKUH) was presented by Abdul Aziz Saddiqi, from Saudi Arabia. Another paper about a Five-year survey of Poisoning in Kuwait from 1984-88 was presented by Ohood S. Al Bahar of the Ministry of Health, Kuwait.

Bahar said that in the five-year period 1984-88,

6,609 patients were admitted to the six general hospitals in Kuwait with a diagnosis of poisoning, a ratio of 79 per 100,000 population. The majority, 60 per cent were children under five years of age, 5.6 per cent were children 6-14 years and 34.3 per cent adults. In children under five years, 70 per cent were children aged 1-3 and 58 per cent were males. Accidental poisoning occurred in 95.7 per cent of pediatric cases aged 0-14 years.

She added that in contrast, self poisoning occurred in 78.2 per cent. In children under five years the products implicated were drugs 59.1 non-medicines 39.8 per cent and bites and stings 0.96 per cent. The most frequently implicated drugs were analgesics, antihistamines and antispasmodics. Kerosene was implicated in 20.2 per cent of cases, disinfectants and bleaches 6.1 per cent and pesticides 3.3 per cent of cases.

In adults drugs accounted for 78.6 per cent of all cases, non-medicines 19.1 per cent and bites and stings, 2.2 per cent. The principal drugs involved were analgesics (paracetamol and salicylates) and benzodiazepines.

The seminar focused on pharmacy, pharmaceutical services and pharmacy education in its second day yesterday. A research paper on therapeutic drug monitoring concepts and clinical usefulness was presented by Dr Mohamed Abdul Hamid at College of Health, Pharmacy Division, Kuwait.

Hamid said that information concerning drug concentration in the body is now essential for optimal use of drugs in various therapeutic situations. Serum drug concentration may give better indication of therapeutic efficacy than does drug administration. He added that drug concentration in blood depended on several pharmacokinetic factors such as absorption, distribution, metabolism and elimination. Pharmacogenetic factors may also interpret the variation in concentrations of some drugs among certain populations.

He said that the objective of the review is to show the significance of therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) as a valuable tool to obtain optimal therapeutic response and to control toxicity with the eventual aim of establishing a TDM centre in Kuwait. It is proposed to select four different drugs for which the value of serum level has been shown to be of proven benefit: Theophylline, Digoxin, Gentamicin and Isomiazid.

## New titles for state computer employees

By Jamal Ameen

ASSISTANT undersecretary for the National Computers and Microfilms Centre Affairs at the Ministry of Planning, Sulaiman Naser Al Zayed stated that the centre has prepared a new system for titles of government computer workers with the co-operation of the Civil Service Commission.

He announced that all previous titles have been cancelled as of Jan 1, 1990, adding that the ministry is currently forming a committee to determine a framework for training courses required for the employment hierarchy in the field.

He indicated that the number of titles reached 46 according to the Ministry of Finance decision. The previous system had a total of 70 computer posts titles which were unorganised and were added on specific time periods.

He explained that the posts titles system is mainly divided into three divisions, namely, the supervisory posts, technical posts and non-technical posts. He added that employees should obtain training courses to be eligible for the new titles system. He praised the new system pointing out that it will give Kuwaiti computer workers the opportunity to technically reach high posts gradually. He stated that the new

system is the first of its kind and is considered to be the basis of the new development structure in the field.

With respect to the National Computers and Microfilm Centre accomplishments in 1989, he added that it is considered to be a distinguished year of achievements for the centre. Centre workers exerted full efforts in the completing of pending duties and preparing future plans. One of the most distinguished accomplishments for 1989 was achieved in the training field and development of computer systems, data resources, computer operations and employees systems. He pointed out that the number of students who graduated from

training courses held by the centre in co-operation with government establishments and institutes totalled 838 trainees, of which 617 were Kuwaiti students.

He stated that the centre has prepared special programmes to develop performance in addition to establishing a national computer network which will fulfil requirements of the plan. He added that the centre conducted a study on the unified government libraries system and another study on the development of the salaries and wages system on the government level.

The National Computers and Microfilms Centre includes a total of 418 technical workers.

## Hand baggage vigil irking cost conscious passengers

Time to pay up, say airlines

By Fathima Ahmed  
Arab Times staff

AIRLINE passengers are up in arms over the strict implementation of the hand baggage rule by all airlines for security reasons. Passengers are not allowed to carry more than one "small" handbag on outgoing flights from Kuwait.

Passengers with bulky handbags are not allowed to board the plane, airline sources said. This is one reason why a strict vigil on hand baggage is being maintained, they added.

Last minute panic and confusion, occurs mostly at Kuwait Airport's Terminal One, after security personnel send back passengers to check-in bulky handbags before boarding a flight. On Terminal Two, passengers are not allowed through immigration by security personnel if they carry bulky, untagged bags. Such a facility is not available on Terminal One.

Certain airlines charge surcharge for bags weighing 20 or

more kilos. Some airlines simply issue baggage tags and send them to the cargo hold; such a practice sometimes results in losses and damage.

Excess baggage charges are calculated as one per cent of the first class fare. For example, excess baggage to Bombay costs KD2,800 per kilo. Trivandrum, KD2,205 and KD2,250 to Colombo. This has mainly affected passengers to the Indian sub-continent and the Far East.

Certain airlines are charging surcharge for any hand baggage, weighing over the above five kilos. Previously, passengers got away with 20 to 30 kilos as "hand baggage," which was normally not weighed. Now that airlines insist on weighing all hand baggage, passengers have to pay for the excess load.

Security precautions are the prime concern. Sources said in case of emergencies, it has been noticed that bulky hand bags in the aisle hamper evacuation procedures. "Aisle blockage

must be avoided," insisted sources.

Passengers believe hand baggage is "free." One airline source said: "There is a general concept, and undertaking that hand baggage is not included in the overall baggage allowance. This is not correct. All hand baggage comes under the baggage allowance."

According to the rules, the baggage allowed is 20 kgs (economy), 30 kgs (business) and 40 kgs (first class), including hand baggage, which was previously not taken into account simply because passengers never declared them at the check-in counter. For security reasons all hand baggage must now be checked-in, and tagged.

Normally, airlines allow certain items like an overcoat, umbrella, reasonable reading material, binoculars and cameras on board. "These need not be weighed," said sources. Items other than the above must be weighed, and checked-in, they insisted.

Passengers are also "upset" about certain irregularities like some people getting away with bulky bags and others having to pay huge sums. "Nobody likes to pay excess baggage surcharge; some people do get away without paying, using 'wastah' (influence)," admitted one airline official.

Baggage rules came into force some 40 years ago. Since then, not many changes have been introduced except in the US and Europe where airlines allow "two bags of reasonable dimensions, each weighing 32 kilos." It would be appropriate if airlines, like Air India, Air Lanka and others, operating to the Indian Sub-continent and the Far East reviewed their baggage allowance policy, and amended rules, to benefit a large percentage of traffic, particularly to Third World countries. If passengers were allowed to carry two suitcases, like in the West, the baggage problem could be resolved reasonably.

## Kuwait fund may finance power project in Egypt

CAIRO, Feb 13, (Kuna): Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Mohammed Maher Abaza disclosed here today that Egypt is determined to continue its studies on nuclear energy and its applications in generating electricity.

"Egypt is determined to continue studies in the field of investing nuclear power in generating electricity," Abaza told Kuwait News Agency in an interview.

"We are studying the whole matter in details, especially after the Chernobyl reactor accident in the Soviet Union," the Egyptian minister asserted. Egypt has one nuclear reactor in the area of Nshas where most researches conducted in it are related to agriculture, industry, medicine, petrol and electricity.

The Egyptian minister, who will visit Kuwait shortly in reply to an invitation from his Kuwaiti counterpart Humoud Al Rqobah, said the Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations in the field of electricity are growing under the directives of the leaderships of the two countries.

Abaza said he will review several projects in the field of electricity in talks with senior Kuwaiti energy officials including Rqobah, who recently returned from a visit to Cairo.

During that visit, Abaza said, Rqobah expressed Kuwait's readiness to co-operate with Egypt in several projects in the concerned field and made an initial promise to finance them.

A study on a project to cultivate a 400,000 acre area in Northern Sinai including a major power station feeding the whole project will be presented to the Kuwaiti government and the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development in an attempt to invite their co-operation in financing the project, Abaza said.



Computer training course

The Deputy Director-General at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training Humoud Al Mudhat opened yesterday a new training course on the theme of "The preparation and upgrading of the Modern Manager," a press release issued by the authority reported.

It added that the training course which will last up to Feb 20 and aims at giving trainees the necessary opportunities to acquire the necessary skills in the administrative fields.

On the other hand, the official had inaugurated another two training course on the computer programming and Computer DBASE III system which will last up to March 20.

## Celebratory lights will not cause overload

By Fouzi Al Tamimi

THE assistant undersecretary for subscriber's affairs at the Ministry of Electricity and Water Ali Humoud Al Femi has said that the use of electrified ornaments as part of the celebrations marking the country's national day does not exert any overload on the power network, particularly since power consumption during the winter dropped considerably.

He reaffirmed the ministry's readiness to provide all needed power supply, adding that the ministry had already electrified all chalets located in the southern areas of the country, excluding blocks in Doha which would be supplied with power within the coming two months.

He said that proposed new direct billing system would be of great benefit to subscribers, and that under this system it would be possible to determine the average consumption per capita over the previous years. He pointed out that the system was highly advanced and that many advanced countries employed this system, which depended on annual readings.

The system would also enable the ministry to track down the balance of payments with the subscribers and identify late payers of bills, adding that the estimated quantity of power consumed was calculated based on readings taken over the past ten years.

## New fertility centre for men

Fauzi Al Tamimi

ACCORDING to a medical source at the Ministry of Public Health the ministry is currently preparing to establish a specialised centre for the treatment of infertility among men over the coming two years, which would be operating side by side with the Test-tube centre at the Maternity Hospital.

The source said that the centre would comprise a number of divisions to treat different types of infertility, whether resulting from partial total blockage of the fallopian tract, infertility caused by hormone deficiency and others and that surgeons would be able to perform microscopic operation to treat these cases.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Amiri audience

KUWAIT, Feb 13, (Kuna): HH the Amir received yesterday HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

### Premier receives

KUWAIT, Feb 13, (Kuna): His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday received the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed and Minister of Finance Jassam Al Khorafi.

Sheikh Saad also received Saudi Ambassador here Abdelrahman Al Bakr, member of the Supreme Council of Planning Mohammed Sabah Al Salem and member of council Eissa Al Shahin as well as Editor in Chief of Al Qabas daily Mohammed Jassam Al Saqer.

### Diplomats received

KUWAIT, Feb 13, (Kuna): Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah yesterday received newly appointed ambassadors of Bhutan, Venezuela and Italy.

Sheikh Nawaf also received British Ambassador to Kuwait Peter Hinchcliffe as the diplomat's term here came to an end.

### Civil defence

KUWAIT, Feb 13, (Kuna): Under the patronage of Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem, the second batch of Civil Defence volunteers will hold a graduation ceremony next Saturday.

The batch includes 252 volunteers, 72 of them are women.

### British envoy

KUWAIT, Feb 13, (Kuna): Trade and Industry Minister Faisal Abdel Razaq Al Khaleel yesterday received in audience United Kingdom's Ambassador to Kuwait Peter Hinchcliffe on the occasion of expiry of his term of office here.

The minister also received separately the ambassadors of Venezuela and Italy to Kuwait Jose de Jesus and Marco Colombo respectively who called on the minister for familiarisation.

### Soviet journalists

KUWAIT, Feb 13, (Kuna): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammed Al Ossaimi received today a media delegation consisting of Soviet journalists from a number of Soviet newspapers.

Ossaimi talked to the delegation on Kuwait-Soviet relations, international and regional issues and the Palestinian question.

Both parties also discussed changes and developments in Eastern Europe and the perestroika policy in the Soviet Union.

### National day celebrations

KUWAIT, Feb 13, (Kuna): The permanent committee responsible for the celebrations of the National Day yesterday morning held a meeting attended by its head the minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad and approved plans and activities for the upcoming National Day of Kuwait.

In statements to Kuna following the meeting, Sheikh Jaber said this year's programmes will not be different from previous years and depend mainly on the participation of the people and the residents of Kuwait.

He added that on Saturday the committee will celebrate the raising of the Kuwaiti flag on the Green Island at the coastal front officially launching the celebrations.

A number of economic, health and public construction projects will be inaugurated during days of the celebrations, reflecting the comprehensive development of the country.

The Arab Gulf tenth football tournament will also be inaugurated on the 20th of the month and will last until the 9th of March, the minister asserted.

The celebrations will be concluded on the 28th of February.

## Gulf must be prepared for European unity: Mulla

THE secretary-general of the Arab Gulf Chambers Union Mohammad Abdullah Mulla has said that the achievements made within the framework of the GCC are considered great feats, given the short period of the existence of the GCC and the conditions besetting the region.

He told a local daily that the union was preparing to hold a conference in France in co-operation with a number of Arab-European chambers to discuss the commercial relations and joint investments with Europe beside the existing situation of the Gulf banks and potential effects of the proposed European unity in 1992.

He stressed the need to promote commercial exchange and joint investments among the Arab chambers and eliminate

all bureaucratic obstacles hindering the process.

He said that the latest events in the Soviet Union and East Europe could discourage investments in these countries, adding that it was advisable to make these investments in the Arab countries.

He said that the proposed European unity sees the light it would constitute a strong entity and consequently pose greater challenge to Arab countries, always negotiated with from a position of power, at a time when most Gulf countries are still importing countries.

He added that these massive changes occurring in Europe and the world should have been forecasted and prepared for a

long time before they happened, but the presence of Arab Co-operative Councils were the only solace that could back efforts directed at confronting these challenges.

Mulla said that at the GCC level, quick steps had been taken and that 200 representatives from the Gulf region would attend the Granada Conference scheduled to be held in Spain next week with 400 industrialists attending from Europe. He added that it would be a good opportunity to review viewpoints between the two sides on different industrial, commercial, and financial issues.

He said that at the level of the union, preparations are underway in co-operation with the Franco-Arab Chamber of

Commerce and a number of other participating European chambers to hold a conference in France to discuss mutual investments, commercial relations and the existing situation of the Gulf banks in Europe, besides many other issues of mutual concern, pointing out that the conference was supposed to be held in May but had been postponed so that the results of the Granada conference would have been studied.

He said that there was an urgent need to repatriate Arab capital invested in Europe and the Soviet Union, and that the Arab and Gulf countries, were required to avoid scattering their money between the east and the west.

## ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A LOVER who reasons is no lover — Norman Douglas, English writer (1868-1952).

## OPINION

## Oman: miracle of Sultan Qaboos

THE political, social and economic history of Oman will long remember with nostalgia the symbol of Oman — Sultan Qaboos who awakened his country and set it on the right track of civilisation and prosperity in the coming century.

This, he has achieved during the past 25 years, in a very quiet, but consistent manner and with a high-level of taste that attracts the attention of all visitors to Oman.

His sense of working without any fanfare is reflected in his manner of working in an exclusively homogenous way. He has succeeded in achieving not only a materialistic civilisation, but also moral, ethical and the cultivation of the arts. Music in Oman, reminds one of Salzburg, the famous beautiful Austrian city.

During the three days of the Amiri visit to Oman, we were fortunate to experience and closely live the life of Oman so diligently achieved by Sultan Qaboos by reviving the rich Omani heritage and supplementing it with the special additions of the Sultan — thus projecting a totally different Oman before the entire world. This is what the Sultan wanted for his country — heritage and development that will attract the attention of every one as a country of distinctive civilisation.

Oman has simply become a paradise and we owe this wonderful feeling to the man who has vision and determination to make this vision bear fruit.

The Sultanate of Oman is the miracle of Sultan Qaboos — the true distinguished leader.

Ahmad Al Jarallah

## Shamir stands up to rival

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, by choosing his words carefully and standing up to his toughest rival, has signalled to Washington he is ready to go on with peace efforts.

In a challenge to Shamir's leadership, Trade Minister Ariel Sharon announced at a wild meeting of their Likud Party on Monday that he would leave the government rather than accept the premier's proposals for peace talks with Palestinians.

The 74-year-old prime minister, largely ignoring the resignation, gave a typically hardline speech to the 3,000-member Central Committee which nonetheless left an opening for progress towards the US-brokered talks.

In a gesture to Washington and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, his Labour Party ally in Israel's coalition government, Shamir purposely kept the door to talks open for Palestinians expelled from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## Speech

"It was a very carefully written speech. I just can underline that he didn't mention anything about that fact," Avi Pazner, his media adviser, told Reuters.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, backing a 26-month-old revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied territories, wants to include the Palestinians who were deported for their resistance activities.

It also wants to include leading Palestinians from Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, but Shamir ruled them out for fear of casting doubt on Israel's claim that Jerusalem is its undivided eternal capital.

"He reiterated the broad consensus of Likud that Jerusalem should remain united, is part of Israel, and there is no part for Arabs from east Jerusalem in the process," Pazner said.

Palestinians view Jerusalem as their future capital.

Despite Shamir's claim to have won a mandate, the vote by a show of hands was complicated by the burlly Sharon's simultaneous appeal for constraints on the Israeli leader's peace bid. The meeting ended in confusion.

## Peace moves

While still trying to sort out his party problems, Shamir faces another test in the 12-member Likud-Labour inner cabinet.

Labour wants a vote on including deportees and east Jerusalem Arabs. They propose a loophole whereby the east Jerusalem Palestinians can join the talks if they have second homes in the West Bank.

It remains to be seen whether Shamir and the 67-year-old Rabin, co-architect of the government's peace moves, will be able to hold their 13-month-old coalition together.

Their alliance gave birth to a proposal for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories, the heart of current peace efforts, and has given hope the Americans of an Arab-Israeli settlement.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1540 — Holy Roman Emperor Charles V enters Ghent and executes leaders of revolt.

1663 — Canada becomes a royal province of France.

1797 — British fleet under John Jervis and Horatio Nelson defeat Spanish off Cape Saint Vincent.

1846 — Uprising in Cracow republic spreads swiftly throughout Poland.

1893 — Hawaii is annexed by treaty to the United States.

1929 — Seven hoodlums, rivals of Al Capone gang in Chicago, Illinois, are murdered in garage in what becomes known as "Saint Valentine's Day massacre."

1943 — Soviet forces recapture Rostov from Germans in World War II.

1950 — Soviet Union and China sign 30-year treaty in Moscow.

1956 — Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev denounces Joseph Stalin's policies at Soviet Communist Party conference.

1958 — Union of kingdoms of Iraq and Jordan into Arab federation with King Faisal as head of state.

1972 — US trade restrictions against China are relaxed, putting China on same basis as Soviet Union.

1976 — Nigerian government confirms that nation's head of state, General Murtala Ramat Muhammed, was assassinated at start of attempted coup d'état.

1978 — US government announces plans to sell billions of dollars worth of arms to Egypt and Saudi Arabia as well as to Israel, saying it will maintain military balance in Middle East.

1988 — Three officers of Yasser Arafat's mainline group in Palestine Liberation Organisation are killed in Cyprus when their booby-trapped car explodes.

1989 — Belgium's former prime minister Paul Vanden Boeynants returns home after family pays ransom one month after his kidnapping.

## Heal wounds

SIR: Salman Rushdie's first novel, *Grimsus* (1974), was a commercial flop, but his second, *Midnight Children* (1981), which won the Booker prize, sold 500,000 copies world-wide. His next novel, *Shame* (1983), was another roistering allegory about political events in Pakistan.

Although nominated for the Booker prize, the award went to another contender. Rushdie, an admirer of English customs and manner, raised eyebrows at the presentation dinner by standing up and protesting the injustice of the decision.

Rushdie is an effect of his social circumstances and lacks dignity and tolerance when dealing with the sensibilities of his own people. For his previous two novels, Rushdie got away with apologies to the Gandhi clan and Pakistan.

He writes fictional novels, which are philosophical and comic. He makes a commercial capital out of a literary adventure. For this, he resorts to compulsive lies, misrepresentations of events and mutilation of history without any justification.

As an outstanding writer, he knows that to hold a pen is to be at war, but he possesses a self-righteous streak and writes with an aim to inflict intellectual pain and hurt feelings of the bulk of his audience.

As a member of civilised society, he indulges into language in his books which even his own family, a great admirer of English tradition, would find hard not to condemn. "Bastard, scum," are words he uses and says that "this is the book which gives voice and fictional flesh to the immigrant culture of which I am myself a member."

In his sincere effort to become a Westerner, he lost his faith, but at least this savage and intellectual terrorist should be taught how to behave and write in a civilised society by refraining use of obscenities and vulgarities.

He wants to win every time: his aims are commercial; his motto is to make money — money by right means if you can, but not by any means, make money. His outrage at the presentation dinner of the Booker ceremony award, in which instead of *Shame*, another contender was given the award, shows the gentlemanly conduct which, as a refined black English, he possesses.

He is not always endorsed by his fellow Britons — white and coloured alike. He has earned Sir Richard Attenborough by telling criticism of his film "Gandhi" (which he says he never saw but did criticise); he censured the film for disregarding and minimising certain historical facts.

He is an articulate critic of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's economic policies and a habitual scourge of racism in British society. Unfortunately, he wants to be accepted with his pale skin as a white, a first among equals. This inferiority complex is deep-seated and forms an integral part of his confused personality.

Rushdie's biggest crime is that he is an intellectual coward whose aim is to do intentional damage and evil to others. "Those who do evil to others — hate them."

I detest what he has so far written but always believed in defending his right to say it. But now, he deserves no such defence, because he is an intellectual torturer and an intellectual dictator who writes to hurt. He feeds his own blood to be despised blood flowing in Islamic countries as a protest on his book; when faced with bounty on his head, hides, instead of presenting himself to the public. He is a criminal who makes his audience bleed and, consequently, apologises for his lapses after meeting his commercial ends as a matter of habit (the commercial flop of *Grimsus* taught him this).

No faith, no discipline, no integrity, a mass of confusion and complexities, a misfit in the society which refuses to accept him, he is devoid of every norm of gentlemanly and literary conduct. His apologies, after inflicting emotional torture to his audience during the last decade, proves what a coward he is. He represents the worst kind of a philosopher and pseudo-intellectual who hurts a vast segment of humanity without any or no proper justification.

What he finds an absolutely proper subject for a writer in a comical way, that is, revelations on Prophet Mohammed, (PBUH) is the worst kind of blasphemy Muslims can ignore. Such a writer who commits systematic intellectual torture and emotional stress of his audience should be barred from the society of man.

Everyone admires his verbal brilliance. His Booker winning *Midnight Children* portrays his overwhelming writing power which matches the sinister menace of his hooded eyelids, but there is no doubt about it that the Muslim community find him, in his own words, "a self-hating man making a living by attacking and vilifying his own people."

Salman Rushdie's literary reputation is impenetrable. He is a master story-teller, but an intellectual dwarf — devoid of any intellectual honesty or principle. If he has any, he should be a martyr for his cause of "freedom of expression" like Socrates, whose prosecution was based upon the charge that he makes worse appear the better cause.

In his speech that Socrates made in his own defence at his trial "Apology" Socrates said that, "If you kill such a one as I am, you will injure yourselves more than you will injure me in the evil of unjustly taking away the life of another — is greater fear."

The main facts of Rushdie's prosecution are based upon the charges that he is an evil-doer; men who have condemned him need reasons for his fanatical liberal fundamentalist assault on feelings of Islamic community. He has to perform an intellectual miracle with his verbal brilliance to defend his trial that he has escaped like a dog with his tail between his legs from the global intellectual arena.

"A writer," in words of Leon Uris, American novelist, "is one of the most important soldiers in the fight for the survival of human race." His naked attempt to mutilate history without any justified cause with an utter disregard of the sensitivities of his Muslim audience, which constitutes a vast section of humankind, is intolerable.

His grasp of history is formidable, but the way the episodes for the early Islamic works are interspersed with what are, in this context, degrading images, is condemnable.

Rushdie, in his own words, claims that, "in a writer's work there has to be a choice, but there has to be a rationale of choice — one selects not to mislead but to make the story more meaningful." Ironically, in "The Satanic Verses," he disregards and minimises certain important Islamic historical facts. He has engaged himself in the worst kind of blasphemy and, therefore, from Islamic viewpoint, is a renegade and an apostate.

Unfortunately, his most bitterly disputed passage in the book did not spring from his imagination, but finds its origin and has been recorded in early Islamic history, which is generally considered to be unauthentic by Muslim scholars.

He exhibits a civil amused detachment about the fact that Western readers are unable to gauge the blow he has dealt to the very core of Islamic society.

According to Prof. William Graham, professor of history and religion at Harvard, "historically, Muslims have been much more tolerant of non-believers than Christians," but if someone is convicted of blasphemy and apostasy, the crime of renouncing one's religious faith, the traditional punishment for such a crime is death.

Rushdie knew it and foresaw the consequences of the deadly serious matter he dealt in a whimsical, and sometimes outrageous way, though taking care to offer these sequences as dreams, or even dream within a dream, by characters who may or may not be mad.

By Western standards, it is a brilliant novel containing some passages which have inflamed Muslims

around the world, not just fundamentalists and extremists, there is a universal judgement that he has dishonoured the faith; the threat, which Rushdie has merited in sum, is due to insult of the faith and triviality of the sacred.

The edict of excommunication from Muslim fundamentalists against Rushdie is not due to the Muslim world's total lack of dignity and tolerance of freedom of expression and right to life, but for Muslims, he has committed a crime of transgression of "hadud" — the limits of propriety.

Islam does not allow unlimited freedom of expression. The Muslims are broad-minded about most of the things but never about anything that even remotely touches their faith. By ignoring this fact, Rushdie has invited trouble from the Islamic society; to kill Rushdie, his enemies need no professional killers, the rank and file believers in many countries will readily shed his blood, as the Holy Quran, for good measure, exonerates any Muslim who manages to perpetrate this deed and promises him the reward of martyrdom.

Islam does not deny the man's right to knowledge. An unexamined idea is not worth having, and a society whose ideas are never explored for possible error, may eventually find its foundation insecure. But Rushdie knew it very well that Muslims mostly are peculiarly devout for reasons of economic circumstances and system of education; they have sensitivity and cause of mankind, would not strike.

The men who condemn him to death believe that the defence of the faith is of such overriding importance that extreme violence may be pressed into service for its defence.

Rushdie shares the scepticism of his character in "The Satanic Verses" about the authenticity of God's revealed word; he is perfectly aware of the Muslims' belief that the Quran is the very word of God, preserved in heaven and transmitted by the Angel. His literal twisting of the Quran is transgression, which is blasphemy, unforgivable and condemnable to death.

In Islam, the proper punishment for an apostate is death, therefore, his enemies' verdict has validity, purely on grounds of Islamic jurisprudence.

Although undoubtedly there are other schools of thought who believe that the execution sentence of Rushdie is "irrevocably impossible under the tenets of Islam" since issuance of such a decree makes Islam seem brutal and bloodthirsty. The pronouncement of the edict of excommunication and death sentence, according to some Islamic scholars, is vengeful and contrary to Islamic teachings of mercy.

Iqbal Latif, Paris.



"WELL TRY HARDER!"

## No to exploitation

SIR: Dear Opec, dear Arabs, don't let the West exploit you. Not only your last drop of oil, but your last drop of blood, too. My suggestion is to take me seriously. Why not boycott the West, or whose support is real, for sometime. But don't announce when the boycott will end. In essence, for scarce tactics or at least, to force them to listen to the truth. If they reciprocate by threatening to cut off the lifeline that they think we are so dependent on, we can consider other alternatives for material or other necessities such as Japan. Sometimes we just have to trust in God's wise providence.

The only reason Israel does not want an international peace conference is because they are afraid of being exposed.

Janet Ramadan, Salsabikhat.

## Undue coverage

SIR: "Indo-Pak war likely," Beirut-like situation in Karachi. Flare-off to your reporters and editorial approach. If you think that these type of lines/headlines will enhance the sale of your newspaper, I think you are very much wrong.

Most of your clientele like me buy your newspaper because we are addicts of reading the newspaper in the morning. It really does not matter if the news is old by a month or by a day. We buy the newspaper everyday without fail, finish it in 10-15 minutes time and sign 'another 150 life gone' and this goes on. Therefore, do not worry about the sale of your newspaper. However, in order to maintain the ethics of journalism, please do not give undue coverage and sensation to such news. Make sure that there is a smoke before mentioning of a fire.

It will be more than enough for us if you restrict yourself to publish the news clippings from various famous international newspapers and/or news agencies only especially on international affairs.

V.C. Sharma, Salsabiya.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

## Art Buchwald

## Drug war still raging

THE dope war continues. Just the other day I saw a whole bunch of bankers on television who were accused of laundering millions and millions of dollars in narcotics payments.

Their hearing was in Tampa, Fla., although the bank was located in Luxembourg, with branches in Miami, Alas, all the bankers pleaded guilty. The Justice Department's deal was that there would be no fine and little jail, particularly if the bankers agreed to testify against Noriega.

Dope bankers' friends everywhere rejoiced at the news: Manuel de Colombia, spokesman for the Drug Launderers of America, declared: "These people are good people. They wear nice clothes and own beautiful boats. You cannot hold them responsible for the drug trade."

## Laundrer

"Because those who launder dope money never see the dope. They have nothing to do with it. They only move dollars from one place to another. It's just business."

"And yet," I added, "there wouldn't be a drug trade without launderers. They make it possible. Surely they should serve a little time when they get caught."

Manuel shook his head. "I can't believe my ears. You want a banker to do time just because he takes cash deposits from agricultural interests in Colombia?"

I replied: "Suppose the money comes from cocaine. Do you believe that the bankers should still be let off?"

"It's impossible to run a bank in Florida if you keep asking about the source of the money. Besides, a bank which deals in narcotics' earnings can lend a lot more to its legitimate customers than one that doesn't."

## Deel

"Do you think that the government has a right to make deals with bankers who launder drug profits?"

Manuel said: "It not only has a right, it has a duty to see that they don't go to jail. If we seat every banker who was involved in dope sales to the slammer, there would be no one to manage the drive-in teller stations. These people are among the classiest in the country. You won't find a finer group anywhere. They not only play golf, they give to the blood bank. Are you going to ask them to do time simply because they had interest in international commerce?"

"Yes, I am. I hope and pray that anyone involved in the sale of dope would wind up cleaning prison toilets for the rest of his life."

"Did it ever occur to you that these bankers could nail Noriega?"

"Frankly, no. But I would think that the bankers could do more damage to the country than the pipsqueaks from Panama. If you let the bankers off free, they'll go straight back to the Laundromat. I'd rather that they take a poison pill than Noriega."

Manuel was starting to worry that his mission was getting across. He tried again: "Let's go hard for you to understand that maybe society needs money launderers to turn bad money into good money? Perhaps the proceeds did come from selling dope, but before the bankers got through with it, they were financing condominiums in the Everglades. I know most of those launderers personally, and I would trust them with my sister."

"Providing your sister was a courier for a drug cartel in Peru."

"We have a saying in the drug-banking business. 'You wash my money and I'll wash yours.'"

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

## Quote me

"THE problem with King and all them is they let him call his own shots. He went over there just three weeks before the fight, then he gets knocked down in training (by Greg Page) and he takes five days off. Five days off! Those guys Bright and Snowden aren't trainers, they're go-fers. Mike needed somebody who could look into his eyes and find out if he still had the fire to fight." — Tyson's ex-trainer, Kevin Rooney.

"At least he's proven now that he takes a good shot. Some people doubted he could do that. Douglas milled him continually, with good punches, hard punches. Mike took them until he couldn't take it anymore and started looking for a place to go." — Kevin Rooney

"Mr. De Klerk is a man of integrity. He seems to be fully aware of the dangers to a public figure of making undertakings which he fails to honour, and I think that is a very promising sign. In my discussion with him he has been very flexible." — Nelson Mandela.

"THE ref is the boss in the ring at all times. I think it would be a black eye for boxing if they take the title away from Douglas. I know the way they operate, they might consider a rematch. But as far as I'm concerned, Mike Tyson got knocked out." — Lou Duva, manager of Evander Holyfield.

"THE armed struggle is merely defensive. It's a defensive act against the violence of apartheid, but we remain committed to peace if the government gives us the opportunity. If they normalise the situation we are ready to make a positive contribution towards the peaceful settlement of the problems of this country." — Nelson Mandela.

"I've lost before. It's no big deal. I've always come back from a loss. I feel great. I have a slight swelling in my eye and as soon as it goes down, I'm ready to go back to training. I had a pretty bad performance but I'm not going to make excuses. I'm not going to make excuses. I'm just going to go on and make better results." — Mike Tyson.

"I AM confident that if Mr De Klerk is able to carry the National Party with him in the new line he has taken — that he himself wants to normalise the situation as soon as possible. I think that very soon the obstacles to negotiations will be removed and it will be possible for us to sit down and talk." — Nelson Mandela.

"I have lost a great deal over these past 27 years and my wife has been under all sorts of pressures. It is not a nice feeling for a man to see his family struggling without security, without the dignity of the head of the family around... (but) in prison there have been men who are very good in the sense that they understand our point of view and they do everything to try to make you as happy as possible. That wiped out any bitterness a man could have." — Nelson Mandela.

# Saving lives with whisky and arak

BEIRUT, Feb 13, (Agencies): Lebanese surgeons treating hundreds of casualties from inter-Christian fighting are saving lives with whisky and arak, using the liquor as antiseptics because of a severe shortage of proper supplies.

Hospital sources said more than 20 tonnes of blood have been used in transfusions for casualties, numbering at least 1,750 wounded and nearly 500 dead.

"There have been many more cases than we ever admitted during previous rounds of violence during the 15 years of war," said doctor Alan Persier of Hotel Dieu Hospital in East Beirut.

"We have used up most of our supplies.

On many occasions hospital staff, visitors and combatants have donated blood for patients," he said in the shell-battered hospital.

Fierce battles with tanks, artillery and rockets which erupted in the Christian enclave 13 days ago damaged many of the hospitals serving the enclave's 900,000 people.

ARZ (Cedars) hospital received six hits that destroyed its intensive care unit and laboratory. Shells smashed incubators and beds in the children's ward of Hayek hospital.

Doctor Edgar Haddad, a gynaecologist at ARZ hospital, said lack of staff meant

surgeons had to carry out all types of operations regardless of their speciality.

"We became war surgeons and used whisky and arak as antiseptics. But the patients got the best treatment." Arak is a spirit usually distilled from raisins.

At Hotel Dieu, where more than 200 casualties have been treated, some 100 beds are set up in a basement for safety.

Persier said the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had made four deliveries of emergency supplies to his hospital which lacked food, water and fuel for its generator.

The fighting, which has engulfed most of the enclave, trapped many doctors away

from their clinics and power cuts disrupted telephones and other communication links.

The Voice of Lebanon radio station once broadcast this appeal: "A cardiologist and a brain surgeon are badly needed at St George hospital. Volunteers, please call us and we will arrange transport."

Armoured personnel carriers were used to move doctors and casualties because indiscriminate shooting made ambulances too dangerous.

Some casualties lay where they fell for hours before help reached them, often too late.

# Arabs pledge \$64m Funds pour in for library

ASWAN, Egypt, Feb 13, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia has pledged a total of \$23 million to help revive Egypt's ancient Alexandria library, a government spokesman said today.

Iraq has already offered \$21 million and the United Arab Emirates 20 million to help fund a new building near the site of the ancient world's most influential centre of learning.

The Egyptian spokesman said Saudi Arabia had offered \$20 million for the library. Saudi Prince Turki bin Abdul-Aziz yesterday donated three million.



French President Mitterrand (right) talks to Queen Sofia of Spain (centre) and Queen Noor, wife of King Hussein of Jordan, before the inaugural meeting of the international commission for the revival of the ancient Alexandria Library in Aswan. (Reuters wirephoto)

A ceremony attended by queens, presidents, sheikhs and princesses was held on Monday at Aswan to raise funds to rebuild the library, destroyed by fire more than 2,000 years ago.

Construction costs are estimated at between \$100 and 200 million and Egypt hopes other countries will provide funds to cover running costs.

Egypt and the United Nations have already begun a campaign to raise funds to build what is being presented as the reincarnation of the library.

Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, kicked off with a pledge of \$20 million, the first foreign sponsor except for a half-million dollars from Norway for a feasibility study.

The total cost of the new library will be close to \$150

million including more than \$60 million from Egypt in the form of equipment and Mediterranean seafarers where the library will be built.

Egypt, which owes foreign creditors \$50 billion, "has decided to carry out this colossal work and give it top priority in spite of ... the challenge it faces for realising comprehensive economic reform," said

President Hosni Mubarak. "Egypt can never relinquish its pioneer civilisation role, which it should play by virtue of its history and location," Mubarak said.

The general director of Unesco, Egypt's co-sponsor for the project, admitted the cost is high but said "fostering knowledge, the supreme resource, is worth it."

# Israel seeks power to veto

(Continued from Page 1)

Party chief Shimon Peres said of Shamir's speech, "I don't think that this was a great contribution to the peace process."

A top Israeli official said Shamir made clear at Likud party meeting that the government would not compromise further on Middle East peace.

Yossi Ben-Aharon, the director-general of Shamir's office, ruled out a pivotal meeting of Israeli, Egyptian and US foreign ministers unless Washington promised Israel the power to veto any Palestinian candidate to future talks.

Asked what message Shamir meant to send in his speech to the tumultuous meeting on Monday night, Ben-Aharon told Reuters: "We have reached the limit of our capacity to compromise through this initiative."

"Don't expect us to agree to additional concessions because this will easily break the very tender, the very delicate fabric that is holding this government together," Ben-Aharon said.

Ben-Aharon said the participation of deportees could not be interpreted as a concession to Palestinian demands for a right to return to the occupied territories. It followed existing policy regarding deportees.

Shamir ruled out participation of Palestinians from Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem, but the Labour-Likud 12-man inner cabinet is split on the issue. Both Israelis and Palestinians claim Jerusalem as their capital.

"The list of Palestinians who would participate has to be a list that is satisfactory to Israel as well, not exclusively to Israel, but Israel as well," Ben-Aharon insisted.

"We don't want robots who are of our making, but we don't want robots who are of the PLO making."

Meanwhile, it was indicated that Shamir would accept the surprise resignation of Sharon.

Leaders of the Labour Party, met late today and decided not to consider leaving the government. They would test the prime minister's commitment to the peace process in the inner cabinet, but no date was set, Israeli radio reported.

Sharon returned to his desert farm today after his shock resignation from the cabinet but said he would not abandon politics to raise sheep.

An Israeli parliamentarian today accused Sharon of wanting to quell the Palestinian uprising by arming Arabs to kill each other.

Benjamin Begin, son of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, levelled the charge a day after Sharon quit the government in protest at proposed peace talks.

Begin told Israeli radio that Sharon last November proposed giving weapons to Arabs collaborating with Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"This Arab revolt won't end until thousands of Arabs are killed by Arabs," he quoted Sharon as saying.

An aide to PLO leader Yasser Arafat today welcomed the resignation of Sharon, but Syria denounced it as a trick.

# Husseini 'to lead PLO delegation'

Palestinian team proposed for talks

KUWAIT, Feb 13, (Agencies): The Palestine Liberation Organisation has proposed a delegation headed by East Jerusalem activist Feisal Al Hussein for direct talks with Israel in Cairo, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported today.

The paper quoted an unidentified ranking Palestinian official as saying the delegation comprises supporters of the Fatah movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in addition to two deportees. But it excludes the Islamic group Hamas and the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine, the newspaper reported in its Tunis-dated dispatch. The PLO headquarters is in Tunis.

The deportees, who would be allowed to return home on the eve of the talks, belong to the Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine and the Palestinian Communist Party, the official said.

Three names on the list, which was relayed to Washington through Egypt, "have been removed because they do not win the approval of Israel," the official was quoted as saying.

"The United States and Israel have the right to reject three more names to bring the list down to 10," from the original 16 suggested by the PLO, the official said.

According to the Palestinian official, who the newspaper said asked not to be quoted by name, the list of the remaining 10 names would include the following:

■ Feisal Al Hussein and Seri Nuseibah for East Jerusalem. They have residence addresses in the towns of Abu Dis and Ramallah.

■ Radwan Abu Ayyash for Ramallah.

■ Ghassan Al Shakas and Maher Al Masri for Nabulus.

■ Mustafa Al Natshe for Hebron.

■ Fayed Abu Rahme, Zakariya Al Agha and Assad Saftawi for the Gaza Strip.

■ Elias Freij, Mayor of Bethlehem and Hanna Seniora, editor of East Jerusalem's Al Fata newspaper, are two Christian nominees.



Al Hussein

One of the two is to be chosen as a delegation member, the official said.

There was no immediate direct confirmation of the report.

US Secretary of State James Baker III is preparing to host a meeting with the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers to discuss trying to convene the long-stalled Palestinian-Israeli peace dialogue in the

Egyptian capital.

To date, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has been on record as stating he will not agree to the Palestinian delegation being named by the PLO.

The Israeli stance, along with the PLO's insistence that it alone has the right to name the delegation members, has been the underlying factor for months of delay in getting the meeting of the US, Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers off the ground.

Egypt, the only Arab country that has a peace treaty with Israel, has been acting as a go-between with the PLO.

Meanwhile, the chaotic results of a meeting of the Likud bloc of Israeli premier, left the already stalled Middle East peace process in deeper trouble and raised doubts about the future of Yitzhak Shamir's fragile coalition cabinet.

Leaders of Likud's coalition partner, the centre-left Labour Party, met last night and decided not to make any moves that would likely break up the government as long as there is a chance for peace.

# Iran-Soviet talks on travel

Azeris mark Tehran Revolution Day

NICOSIA, Feb 13, (AP): A Soviet delegation in Iran discussed ways of facilitating travel across the northwestern frontier in Azerbaijan, Tehran radio reported today.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Chaplin met with his Iranian counterpart Mojtaba Mirmahdi Monday and Tuesday.

The meetings coincided with rioting in the Soviet Muslim Republic of Tadjikistan in which at least seven people were killed. State-run Tehran radio reported the violence, without comment.

Mojtaba and Chaplin discussed setting up consulates on both sides of the border in Azerbaijan, which straddles the boundary, and ways of easing travel between the two countries, the radio said.

Thousands of Soviet Azerbaijanis, who share a common language, culture and religion and their Iranian kin across the frontier, last month destroyed border fences and crossed into Iran for short visits.

While some Soviet Azerbaijanis have been calling only for free travel and trade across the border, more extremist nationalists have been agitating for the creation of a "greater Azerbaijan," an independent homeland for some 20 million Azerbaijanis on both sides of the frontier.

More than 20,000 Soviet Azerbaijanis fled to Iran last month after Soviet troops moved to put down a rebellion triggered by ethnic clashes between the predominantly Muslim Azerbaijanis and Christian Armenians living there.

The official Iranian news agency said that Soviet Muslims in Azerbaijan celebrated the 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution that brought the Shiite Muslim clergy to power in Tehran.

Soviet Muslims gathered along the border Sunday, the culmination of the 10-day celebrations marking the anniversary, and shouted Islamic slogans, said the official News Agency.



Hundreds of Muslims rallied in Paris on Feb 11 to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Iran. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Iran seizes forged dollars

NICOSIA, Feb 13, (Agencies): Iranian police said yesterday they had seized large amounts of high-quality counterfeit 100-dollar bills circulating on the active currency blackmarket.

Tehran Radio quoted a senior police officer as saying \$85,000 worth of the forged notes printed overseas had been seized from 25 Iranians arrested in 24 cities.

"Taking advantage of the hot open market in foreign currency, smugglers have introduced forged 100-dollar bills with a very high quality in terms of printing, colour and size," an officer said on Iranian television.

The official Islamic republic news agency quoted a police official as saying the arrest of 25 forgers in 14 cities made it the biggest gang ever arrested.

Col. Mostafa Bulverdi told Iran that the money included 50,000 rial notes in denominations of 5,000 and 10,000.

# UN Arab group meets on Jews

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 13, (Agencies): The Arab group agreed yesterday that any outcome of the current Security Council proceedings on the occupied territories must recognize the illegality of Jewish settlements there.

The Arab group met earlier in the day to discuss the Soviet Union's request for a special session of the council to deal with this issue.

The meeting was followed by a meeting of the council's seven non-aligned members. The council has 15 members, including the five permanent members with the power of veto.

At a news conference in Moscow Monday, Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Voronov expressed hope that the council would seriously consider the "dangerous and illegal" Israeli practices aimed at settling Jews from the Soviet Union in the territories.

In a letter addressed to the current president of the council, Ricardo Alarcon of Cuba, Soviet ambassador Aleksandr Belonogov said the Israeli actions were in violation of a 1949 Geneva Convention which prohibits any changes in the demography of occupied territories.

Following a late night meeting with Alarcon, Arab League ambassador Clovis Makoud said he explained to the council president the Arab concerns and the magnitude of the problem created by the settlements.

The Arab group and the council's non-aligned caucus each scheduled another meeting for this (Tuesday) morning.

# Fleeing for life over snow

(Continued from Page 1)

evacuate the embattled regions.

Police said dozens of exhausted civilians slogged through the snow to reach villages in the central sector of Kesrouan province after escaping the confrontation zone.

"Many civilians have reached central Kesrouan, with cases of exhaustion after crossing the deep valleys on foot," he said.

"Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do to help. We can't send patrols to evacuate them because bridges have been blown up and other narrow roads have been either mined or blocked by snow," he said.

In an attempt to limit the army's ability to manoeuvre, Geagea's militia have blown up all bridges linking the Aoun-controlled mountains in the East with Kesrouan's central and western sectors, the spokesman said.

The Lebanese Forces have also planted anti-armour mines along most narrow mountainous roads in the province to block any attempt by Aoun's M-48, US-made tanks to advance.

The Lebanese Red Cross, in repeated statements broadcast by all radio stations, said its blood bank was running out of supplies and pleaded for urgent donations.

"A drop of blood can help save an innocent life," the appeal said, noting that Red Cross centres all over Lebanon were ready to receive donations.

Geagea, said that he talked by telephone with his rival and fellow Christian General Michel Aoun about possible peace talks.

# Faith healer gets 6 months

TUNIS, Feb 13, (Reuters): A Tunis court sentenced a popular clairvoyant and faith healer to six months in prison yesterday for receiving money under false pretences, her lawyers said.

Hadi Habib, 47, was arrested last month after neighbours complained that a television programme about her had attracted thousands of clients at all hours of day and night to her home in the western suburbs of Tunis.

Habib read palms and prescribed cures and potions using bats, tortoises and miracle oil, the court was told.

Habib will appeal against the sentence.

# Militants detained

ASISUT, Egypt, Feb 13, (AP): Security authorities have detained more than 100 Muslim militants in Assiut and two other cities in a continuing government crackdown on allegedly violent, prone fundamentalists, police officials said today.

The detentions followed two arson attacks this month in Assiut, 235 miles (380 km) south of Cairo, a firebomb attack on a police car in Cairo, and alleged anti-government agitation in Port Said, at the Mediterranean end of the Suez Canal. The violence left one man dead and five wounded.

Based on figures released by new Interior Minister Abdel-Halim Moussa, the 108 arrests bring to 800 the number of Muslim militants detained in Egyptian jails under an emergency law.

3 commandos killed OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 13, (AP): Israeli-backed militiamen shot and killed three suspected commandos on Monday in south Lebanon, Israeli military sources said.

One soldier from the south Lebanese army militia was slightly wounded in the incident, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

They said a force from the Israeli-backed militia opened fire after spotting the commando squad near the village of Talbe, 4 kilometres (2.5 miles) from the Israeli border. Three were killed, they said.

Activists jailed RABAT, Feb 13, (Reuters): Five Moroccan Islamic activists convicted of belonging to an illegal organisation have been jailed for between nine months and two years, defence lawyers said today.

Witnesses said baton-wielding security forces arrested dozens of people after breaking up a crowd of sympathisers outside the court before the verdicts last night.

Lawyers said the court at Kenitra 45 km (28 miles) north of Rabat acquitted two other defendants. The seven were also charged with holding unauthorised meetings and breach of the peace.

# Rains flood Iran

NICOSIA, Feb 13, (AP): Rivers burst their banks after two days of non-stop rain, flooding large regions of Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchistan province today, Tehran radio said.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said the town of Chahabhar on the southern tip of the province and more than 50 surrounding towns and villages were submerged.

There was an immediate word on deaths, injuries or damage, but about 2,700 square miles (7,000 square kilometres) of the region was flooded, the radio said.

# Cypriot talks

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 13, (Reuters): Cypriot President George Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş have agreed to a new round of talks here beginning on February 26 to try to reunite their divided island, a UN source said yesterday.

He said Denktaş gave his formal consent at a meeting at the weekend with the UN representative in Nicosia, Oscar Camillon. Vassiliou had previously signalled his acceptance of the date proposed by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar about two weeks ago.

# Egyptian ship sinks

ALMERIA, Spain, Feb 13, (AP): The Egyptian freighter sea carrier sank yesterday 12 miles (17 kilometres) off the southern Spanish coast, a spokesman for the Almeria civil government said.

The cause of the sinking was not immediately known, the spokesman said, adding that two ships picked up seven crewmen.

A Soviet ship picked up four crewmen, but it was believed that one of them later died, and an Indian ship picked up three other crewmen, according to the civil government.

# Ozal to visit Paris

ANKARA, Feb 13, (Reuters): Turkish President Turgut Ozal left today for Paris to join French President Francois Mitterrand in opening an exhibition on 16th century Ottoman culture.

Ozal will have talks with Mitterrand, Prime Minister Michel Rocard and Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac before returning later today, officials said.

The "Sultane The Magnificent" exhibition, featuring books, maps, weapons, porcelain and other artefacts from the rule of the Ottoman sultan, was taken to New York and London in 1988 and West Germany and Japan last year.

# Sudan, Bangui ties

KHARTOUM, Feb 13, (AP): Sudan and the Central African Republic announced yesterday the resumption of diplomatic ties broken in May last year.

The official Sudan News Agency said the announcement came during an unexpected visit to the Central African Republic capital Bangui by Lt Gen. Omar Al Bashir, Sudan's military strongman.

He met with Andre Kolingba, president of Central African Republic, and they later issued a joint communique saying the two neighbours were restoring diplomatic relations, reopening their borders and resuming air service.

# Lull in fighting

Three members of Christian Lebanese Forces militia flock around fire near a Soviet made mortar during a lull in the fighting with troops loyal to General Michel Aoun in north of Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Govt troops and rebels clash at Massawa port

ADDIS ABABA, Feb 13, (Reuters): Government troops and rebels clashed again at the Red Sea port of Massawa and along the road linking it to the capital of Eritrea province, Asmara, Eritrean state news agency said today.

"The army and people's militia are still engaged in intensive struggle on various fronts," the agency reported. But it gave no further details about the fighting.

The rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said it captured Massawa on Saturday, but UN personnel trapped in the town reported by radio that government forces still controlled part of it on Sunday night.

EPLF spokesman Yemane Gabre Meskel told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone from London that

according to his latest information Massawa was now under full rebel control.

The retreating government forces had regrouped in the nearby Dahlak Islands, from where they tried unsuccessfully to retake Massawa in a sea-borne invasion yesterday, he added.

Yemane said rebels sank six government ships and captured one landing craft in yesterday's counter-attack.

A Danish ship carrying relief supplies is reported to have been attacked by a gunboat off the embattled northern Ethiopian port of Massawa, Lloyd's shipping information service said today.

A Lloyd's spokesman said the Dublin chartered of the Svea Atlantic reported the ship was attacked yesterday 27 miles off Massawa in the Red Sea.

# PLO increasingly divided on how to make peace efforts successful

TUNIS, Feb 13, (Reuters): Sitting on the sidelines while Egypt, Israel and the United States do most of the talking, the PLO is growing increasingly divided about how to bring about Middle East peace and depressed about the chances of succeeding.

Upstaged by events in Eastern Europe and fearful that Soviet Jewish emigrants might dislodge those Palestinians who still live in their homeland, PLO members are wondering whether they can go any further along the path of compromise.

Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has

started to talk of resigning and PLO officials say there is growing support inside the movement for stiff resistance to any new concessions.

PLO officials were unwilling to comment on Monday's developments in Israel, where a special Likud party convention to discuss Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's peace plans ended in tumult.

Arafat and Salah Khalaf, one of his closest colleagues and a leading member of his mainstream Fatah group, say the peace process is close to a dead end and the organisation might have to consider unspecified alternatives.

"We have other options, and we hope that nobody will blame us if we take other steps," Arafat said in Baghdad on Sunday.

"Many people are saying the leadership should be more hardline. They are not saying we should call off diplomatic moves, but that we should keep them under control," Khalaf said last week.

Diplomats engaged in preparations for proposed Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo say Arafat is willing to accept a compromise formula for PLO representation in the talks.

But he faces fierce opposition inside the

movement to any step which could dilute the PLO's claim to represent all Palestinians, they say.

Khalaf said it was out of the question, for example, for the PLO to give Egypt clearance to announce the names of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo meeting.

"If it (the PLO) accepted the Egyptians announcing the delegation, the PLO's role would be finished ... it would mean the settlement was only for the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Who would dare take such a step? They are asking us for the impossible," he told Reuters.

# PPC celebrates Bakhtawar's birth

PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S CLUB presented a beautiful musical programme on Friday Feb 9, at the spacious hall "Hibiba" decorated with Kuwaiti, Pakistani, and PPC flags, photos of

Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, Qasbi-e-Azam and a portrait of Shaheed Z. A. Bhutto (Portrait by Ayyaz Khan) and Benazir Bhutto, at Messilah Beach Hotel.

The programme started with Haji Iqbal reciting Holy verses from Sura Rahman. A large number of club members and their families, attended the function. Javed enlightened

the audience with the main concept of the programme saying that the function was mainly to celebrate the birth of "Bakhtawar" the newly born baby girl of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. He also highlighted PPC activities and its important role achieved in serving Pakistani community in Kuwait.

Dr Raiz Ahmed Mahesar, President PPC and chief guest, was invited to the rostrum to give his speech. Dr Raiz thanked the participants before briefing description of Pakistan People's Club activities and the progress it made during past years. He assured the audience that the long awaited demand of the Pakistanis in Kuwait for the revision of PIA flights departure timings are going to be changed in March.

Two members of PPC executive committee, Nazir Dogar and H.M. Arif, were presented with Sindhi ajrak (printed cloth used as turban) for their efforts in membership drive.

Sindhi ajrak was also presented to Rafiq Ahmed Mirza, General Sec PPC, by M. Mousa Blouch who offered his tributes in recognition of Mirza's services to the Pakistani community in Kuwait.

Agha Saeed was then invited to start the second part of the programme, a musical extravaganza. Saeed gave a brief summary of the programme and after each song he repeated the golden words of the speeches of Shaheed Z. A. Bhutto, ex-prime minister of Pakistan.

These abstracts of the speeches were of immense importance and showed the keen efforts of the late prime minister.

The programme which mainly consisted of national and PPP songs was of commendable success in which Sayed Zafar, Zulfiqar, Ghazali, Sami Saine and Agha Saeed participated.

The limelight of the evening was two songs: Soni Dharti Allaha Raka by Zulfi, and He Benazir Bhutto by Sayed Zafar. The latter was presented twice and the members danced to the tune.

At the conclusion of the programme Mirza thanked the members of People's Art Circle especially Salman Shah who prepared this programme and Tanzila Yousuf, president PPC ladies wing.

The programme was organised by the executive committee of PPC: Dr Mahesar, Rafiq Ahmed Mirza, Nazir Dogar, Ch. M. Arif, Aslam Javed, Haji Qamar and Punnu Khan.

## INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

### Majboor: to be a drama or not to be

By Fathima Ahmed  
Arab Times staff

OK! Majboor is a family drama. Don't panic. We don't need to fill in buckets of tears. The best part is we don't even need a box of tissues to blow our noses. It's a fairly "dry" film compared to the dozens of family dramas that have passed our eyes. Perhaps, a few sniffs suffice to cry over helpless Sharda's plight. Having said that, now, one's not quite certain it was meant to be a family drama.

Perhaps, it was an action film, with everyone bashing up everyone else for stellar honours. Perhaps, it was an emotional movie, but there are too many corrupt politicians to make it one. Perhaps, it deals with political corruption. Then, perhaps not. Majboor has these elements thrown in just the right measure to confuse us. Never mind. We'll watch it anyway!

It's the story of two brothers and their family. Jeetendra plays a lawyer Sunny Deol who is the officer. Family honour is at stake. It's the corrupt mayor who becomes the catalyst for change in the Kishanchand (Ashok

Kumar) home, who promptly dies. Everyone blames Sharda, the "new girl" in their lives.

Who is Sharda? Is she married? Is she single? Is she a murderer? Why was she in jail? Why did Jeetendra marry her? Why did he walk out of his mother's home? This unusual, new twist in Majboor prompts the guessing game. Sons don't walk out on their mothers, not in Hindi films, and never in real life. So, we sit up and pay attention. Why did Jeetendra walk out on his mother? That is the million dollar question with an answer a penny a piece.

Nevertheless, Majboor's despair keeps you guessing. And that you don't have to drop a tear keeps the smile pasted on your face.

The nicest character in Majboor, and the most sensible, is Telram (Kader Khan), a wealthy miser who hates to part with even a penny for his millions.

Jeetendra seems to have grown

up, and resists the temptation of dancing around the trees. Jaya Prada has been slotted in the category of tragic actresses, and the glycerine keeps flowing. The dancing honour goes to Sunny and Farha; Sunny also gets a chance to show his muscle power.

A fairly tolerable film and want to "break away" from television.

A host of other films have also been released this week. These include Naag Nagin, Fyarr and Maa Kasam Badla Loonga.

With a title like Maa Kasam Badla Loonga, you can guess the mayhem that it must entail. Hemant Birje and Archana Joglekar star in this movie.

Fyarr stars newcomers, and as the title suggests, it's about romance. Not much of a charmer, though.

Snake charmers are plentiful in Naag Nagin. Due to an aversion to the slithering characters, I apologise for not discussing it with you.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya, Tel: 471-2900; Camry Video, Fisheries Bldg., Sharq and Falcon Video, Abbasia.

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

### KTV 1

#### MORNING

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran  
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news  
9.50 Cartoon serial  
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)  
10.30 Shua's Min Al Madhi: Arabic serial (part 5)  
11.30 Al Waad: weekly Beduin serial (part 7), starring Mohammed Al Abbadi, Saher Sami, Yousif Al Jamal  
12.25 News Summary

#### EVENING

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran  
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)  
4.45 Saham Al Fadha: cartoon serial  
5.15 Spencer: Arabic children's serial

### KTV 2

#### MORNING

5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements  
6.00 Wa Qala Hakeem: historical serial  
6.45 Varieties  
7.15 Popular arts: local variety programme  
7.45 Islamic Monuments and Arts: cultural programme (part 7)  
8.30 Good Evening and local news  
9.00 News in Arabic  
9.45 The television network: local variety programme, prepared and presented by Abdul Rahman Al Najjar  
10.15 Aham Sagheera: local serial (part 6)  
11.15 Ana Wa Banati: Arabic feature film, starring Zaki Ruston, Nahed Shareef, Salah Zulfikar and Fayza Ahmad  
12.45 News summary  
12.50 The World Today via Satellite  
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

### KTV 2

#### MORNING

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran  
6.10 Scooby Doo. A cartoon series for children  
6.30 Danger Bay. "Chanda". When a magician's elephant refuses to go on with the show, Dr Grant is called in to help.  
7.00 International Outdoorsman America's hero - "The Rodeo Clown". Action-packed out-door live-action adventures that circle the globe, captivating the universal family audience.  
7.30 Growing Pains. "The Nanny". Maggie returns home to instruct everybody of their specified duties. But none obeys her. Jason is planning a surprise.  
8.00 News in English  
8.30 Miami Vice. "The

### KTV 2

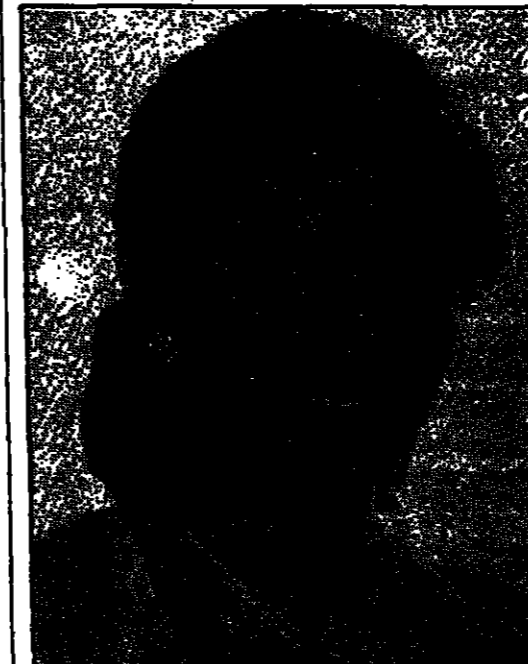
#### MORNING

Miracle Man" Giorgio, the miracle man, cooperates with the police in chasing drug smugglers in spite of all dangers that are waiting ahead.  
9.30 The Science Edition. The new technological revolution in Canada and the whole world. Changes occurred as a result of introducing this new technology in productive projects.  
10.00 Cine club. Presented by Farouk Abdulaziz "Alice doesn't Live Here. Any More". Starring: Ellen Burstyn, Kris Kristofferson, Diane Ladd, Jodie Foster. A young woman's husband dies suddenly and she is left to care for her 11-year-old son. The two of them set for California where she once was very happy and was employed as a singer.  
12.00 News in Brief  
12.15 Magazine D'actualite

## NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait  
Itiklal Pharmacy  
Safat Square  
Al Mutawa Pharmacy  
Al Hilali Street  
Hawalli and Nagra  
Al Joudar Pharmacy  
Tunis St  
Salhiya and Rasmithiya  
Central Pharmacy  
Amro Ben Al As Street  
Fahsheel and Almasil  
Al Itihad Pharmacy  
Makkah St  
Khalifa  
Al Hayat Pharmacy  
Ibn Zuhair Street  
Jahra  
Al Abraj Pharmacy  
Dabal Al Khozai Street

● All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaiikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.



Jaya Prada



Jeetendra

## PRAYERS

Fajr 5.06 am  
Zuhrah 12.02 pm  
Asr 3.12  
Maghreb 5.36  
Isha 6.54

## PRAYERS

Al Andalus  
Batman  
Salhiyah  
Hall Booked  
Al Haura  
Arabic film  
Drive-In  
Beverly Hills Body Snatchers  
Al Firdous  
Kanoon Apna Apna  
Fahsheel  
Arabic film  
Al Jahra  
The Boy Who Could Fly  
Granada  
Arabic film  
Salhiyah  
Range of Ninja  
Jeeb  
Hard Ticket to Hawaii  
Ahmadi Drive-In  
Arabic film



## Shahnaz Hussain visits Kuwait

ROMANTIC novelist Barbara Cartland is one of the several best known users of the herbal cosmetics made by Indian beauty expert Shahnaz Hussain.

Shahnaz is in Kuwait to take part in the Perfume and Cosmetics Exhibition taking place at the Mishrif Fair Grounds.

At a press conference, held yesterday, Shahnaz extolled the benefits of going natural and said herbal remedies are the best way to maintain a woman's beauty.

Shahnaz, who is well-known in the Gulf, has an export turnover worth millions of dollars. The beauty expert, who is often compared with Helena Rubinstein, says that "natural is best". Her herbal products, ranging from skin care to hair care products are lapped up by beauty conscious women across the globe.

With the years, Shahnaz's popularity has grown and she hopes to keep it that way. This won't be difficult for the woman with bundles of energy, and an ambition to remain the best.



## VIP at Kuwait International Hotel

David Rockefeller, during his recent trip to the Middle East, stayed at the Kuwait International. He was welcomed at the hotel by Hermann Simon, general manager.

## WHAT'S ON

### ARTS

**Hobby Centre**  
FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

**Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah**  
14 Feb. Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem exhibition, opening 4.30 pm co-organized by the British Council Wed 14 February - Wed 21 February. This is a specially designed photographic exhibition which is accompanied by wall text and is on display for only a week. Dr Bourgoynne who will give a lecture in Arabic and in English is author of the architectural catalogue which accompanies the exhibition.

**Seminar**  
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

### SOCIAL

**British Council**  
Children's film: Wednesday, 14 Feb. at 6.00 pm: Thursday 15 Feb. at 10.30 am. Five Go To Demon's Rock: The Famous Five go treasure hunting after hearing about a legend of hidden gold in the Wrecker's Cave near Demon's Rock. Join them in their exciting adventure in their search for an old gold coin. 44 min. Admission is free but please book seats by calling Tel: 2515512, 2533204 and 2533227.

**Kuwait Welsh Society**  
ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dance Thursday 1st March 1990. At Messilah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

**Bha 'n' Pieces**  
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

### Robbie in the lobby

ROBBIE 2002 a remote control robot over 1.2 metre tall will be performing in the main lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel on 23rd, 24th and 25th February at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm. It can greet, talk, rotate, bow backwards and forwards, tap dance and perform many other tricks to entertain children of all ages. It has made over 200 television appearances! The most successful being the British TV Quiz show 3.2.1 having over 17 million viewers and was seen across the world. Tickets on sale now. KD1.000 per person. Tel: 2530000 ext 8040.

### Carnival Dinner Nite

Carnival dinner nite by the Entertainers will be held at the SAS Hotel (The Tent) with music provided by Top Ranks & Perfect Strangers, on 22nd Feb, 1990 from 20.30 hours onwards. Highlights of the evening: Parade by K-Momo, Crowning of Carnival Queen, Ramba Samba dance competition. Group prizes, and many other surprises. For further details please contact: The Organisers, Chopsticks Chinese takeaway. Tel: 5617243.

### Singapore festival

SAS Kuwait Hotel will feature Singapore festival on 20th and 21st February at The Tent. The oriental extravaganza will present lion dancers, Chinese dancers, finger painter plus elaborate buffet of popular Singaporean recipes prepared by Singaporean chefs. First of its kind in Kuwait, the show was put up in co-ordination with Singapore Tourist Promotion Board and Singapore Airlines and aims to foster closer relations between the two countries. Tickets available at SAS hotel. For reservations, please call 5657000 ext 401 or 403.

**Valentine's Party**  
VALENTINE'S Party: Come join the fun. Feb 15 dinner buffet-Top Ranks band, door prizes, Cupid's arrow waiting. For more information call Nina on 5339623 or Kathy on 2523992 (between 6 and 8 pm).

### Bazaar

KHALIFA School will be holding a bazaar selling home produce at 9 to 12 am on Thursday 15. For further information 5712544.

### Make it divine on Valentine

"YOU Are My Valentine?" These words are not just the words in a famous song. They are also the words Kuwait International Hotel will be using today to tell friends and family how much they are loved.

Appropriate to the spirit of the season, the KIH is also celebrating A Romance Buffet for lunch and dinner is offered at La Palma. The Faikha has laid out a 6 course set menu for dinner plus a fresh rose for the lady with compliments of the management. So, if you love her without reservations, make one now!

Valentine's Day started by a gardener named Valentino who took care of his monastery's garden. He often watched couples in love walking by and would hand over flowers to the girls. This gesture has started a tradition which today has spread all over the world. At the KIH, this day of appreciation, love and friendship will be celebrated the traditional way.

### Valentine celebrations

BE MY VALENTINE on February 15, 1990 at Sunrise Pinoy Restaurant, Mezzanine Floor, Al Dabbous Bldg. Fahsheel.

Half-hearted upon entry will be given to the guest to participate in the Blind-Date Corner. Free dinner for two for the first winner and a surprise game for all for a Cupid Gift. Dinner buffet for all.

So come and join us and see how Cupid's arrow works. For more information call 3918884. Party will start at 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm.

### Shaheed Day

THE Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, will hold a cultural function on the occasion of "Shaheed Day" on Feb 24, at 6.30 pm at the Bangladesh embassy premises, Khalidiya. Mr. K. M. Shehabuddin, the ambassador, will be the chief guest.

### All Bangladeshis are invited.

### Valentine's Day

14 Feb: Valentine's Day Special dinner in Messilah Beach Hotel from 8-12 pm. Live entertainment, complimentary bottle of Bulmagne, a red rose for each lady and free raffle entries. Book your table in advance. Call 5624111.

### Oil and Gas Catalogue Show

THE Commercial Service of the American embassy announces an "Oil and Gas Catalogue Show" at the Kuwait Continental Hotel during Feb 19-20, 1990, between 8.30 am and 8.30 pm.

Catalogues of more than 200 US companies in the Oil and Gas industry will be displayed. Interested firms are invited to attend.

For further information please contact, Abdulla Mejalli, Tel: 2424151 ext. 267, Fax: 2407368.

### Flute recital

PRESENTED by a group of 4 young Austrian artists at the Kuwait International Hotel on 24th February at 8.00 pm. Winners of the first prize at the Youth Musicians' Festival in Austria, they have recorded for the radio and television in Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, USSR, Egypt and Austria. In the Terrace Room. Tel: 2530000 ext 8039/8040

### Daniella Fastelahn

Daniella celebrates "Fastelahn" for Dances at Gazelle Club on Friday, Feb 16, at 1 pm. For reservations please call Marianne - Tel: 3710215 ext 29 or Winnie - Tel: 5733382 before Feb 13.

### ACOI seven-a-side

ACOI overseas is pleased to announce their first one day football tournament which will be held on the March 2, 1990, at the Sour Grounds.

For further information contact, Casimiro D'Souza or Menino Leitao at the Sour Grounds.

### SPORTS

#### Filipino darts

ALL Filipino darts enthusiasts are again invited for another meeting to be held on Thursday at 6.00 pm, 15 February 1990, at Mabuhay Restaurant to finalise the organisation of a darts tournament. 301 and Killers shall be played both in singles, while a doubles (blind pairing) shall play a Killers game. Last meeting was attended by 21 participants from Alghanim Industries, Mabuhay Restaurant, RIC and SAS Hotel. Mabuhay Restaurant is sponsoring the tournament. For more information contact William Bassig on 4843988 ext 2632.

### Ahmadi Kart racing

THIS Friday sees the 8th round of the Kuwait National Drivers Championship and is sponsored by Avis Car Rental. Racing starts at 1.30 pm and admission is only 500 fils. Snack bar for hot food and drinks. Rentakart available for test drives after the races.

To find us take the Ahmadi turnoff from the Assafar then left at the water tower lights and we're on the left, before the petrol station.

### 7-a-side football

VARCA Sporting Centre will organise its 7th annual one day 7-a-side football festival on February 25 at Sour Grounds to mark the Kuwait National Day. The draw will be held on Friday, February 23 at 10 am. For further details and entry forms please contact VSC members or Tel: 5331940 or 2410461 and 4765070.

### Kuwait International Hotel

FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupuncture, athletic and relaxation massage available every day. Tennis clinics on-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies' and Adult sessions with Frank Novak - an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

### Now at the MBH Sports Centre

Life saving course, with Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade 1 Examiner will be commencing shortly. Ergocycle Fitness Computer tests and courses now available at Messilah.

Jazzercise/Aerobics/Staying power/Yoga and Ballet exercise classes also available.

### Seven a side journey

ACOI Overseas is pleased to announce their first one day tournament which will be held on the 2nd of March 1990, at the Al Sour Grounds. For further information contact: Casimiro D'Souza or Albert Leitao.

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Troop withdrawal further threatens economy

## Soviet unrest could hit energy output

LONDON, Feb 13, (Reuters): The flare-up of unrest in Soviet Central Asia could hit the Soviet Union's natural gas output but important energy exports to the West would not necessarily suffer, Western energy experts said today.

They said that production of crude oil and gas in two central Asian republics where trouble has just been reported, Tajikistan and Kirgizia, was negligible.

"It is peanuts," said Rune Castberg at Norway's Fridtjof Nansen Institute. But he said it might be more serious if trouble flared elsewhere in Soviet Central Asia.

Both Castberg and Jonathan Stern at Britain's Royal Institute of International Affairs said Soviet and Western planners might have reason to worry if unrest threatened energy output.

"Our people need proper houses, not ghettos like Soweto," said Mandela, adding that his joy at returning was tainted by sadness at seeing how Soweto people still lived in poverty in a wealthy country.

Comments by Mandela reaffirming the commitment of his African National Congress (ANC) to the nationalisation of mines and other major industries shook South African markets on Monday and today, causing the price of shares and bonds to fall.

Many financial analysts had expected share prices to rise after Mandela's release on Sunday, supported by hopes that foreign sanctions might be lifted and a peaceful negotiated solution found to apartheid.

UK trade delegation for Kuwait

A BRITISH trade mission organised by the Kent and Sussex Exporters Association will visit Kuwait from Feb 16-19, within a tour to Iraq and Jordan. The mission will be led by Sir Donald Gordon of Gordon-Stimmonds Partnership. The delegation consists of representatives from 18 British companies involved in the manufacture of products with protective applications of various kinds: Cathodic protection for ships' hulls; equipment to combat oil pollution; barriers to combat the spread of fire from one room to another; tarpaulins and protective covers for open storage areas.

Compressed air equipment used in the petrochemical construction and other industries; steam traps specifically designed for the petrochemical and power generation industries are also highlighted.

Boost for Qantas fleet

AUSTRALIA'S national airline, Qantas, is extending its fleet of Boeing 747-400 aircraft powered by the Rolls Royce RB211-524G engine, the most fuel-efficient choice for the airliner.

Qantas is converting one option into a firm order, taking its fleet to 13 with options on a further 19 aircraft.

The 524G allows Qantas to operate with a full payload from the east coast of Australia to London with just one stop at Singapore.

## Drexel considering bankruptcy, defaults on loan

NEW YORK, Feb 13, (AP): The parent of troubled Wall Street firm Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. said today it is considering filing for federal bankruptcy court protection, a move that would mark the demise of one of Wall Street's most powerful firms of the 1980s.

Drexel Burnham Lambert Group Inc. said a staggering liquidity problem resulted in defaults in about \$100 million in loans and was threatening other defaults.

The company said its board was expected to meet later today to determine whether to file for chapter 11 protection from creditors in US federal bankruptcy court.

Under chapter 11 of US bankruptcy law, a company obtains a federal court order that frees it from the threat of creditors' lawsuits until it can develop a plan to put its finances in order.

Wall Street traders and other sources said Drexel was barely functioning, liquidating its huge portfolio of government securities. Few companies were reported to be trading with the firm that rose to prominence through the risky junk bonds that also have marked its

put in nearby Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The produce about 125 billion cubic metres of gas out of a total Soviet gas output of around 170 billion cubic metres a year.

Castberg said supply could be switched around in the huge Soviet gas grid to ensure deliveries to Western Europe would not suffer, although he noted that Central Asian output slightly exceeded the total volume of Soviet exports.

"It is a lot of gas," Castberg said. "Aside from keeping up hard currency exports, you have to consider the political problem if you shut off gas supply to a Soviet city."

Stern at the Royal Institute of International Affairs agreed that "gas is a very significant item in Central Asia."

But he said the political implications of any unrest in the Soviet Union vastly exceeded any economic considerations.

"There may be a marginal impact on energy supply and perhaps a measurable impact if things get much worse," he said.

With momentum building for Soviet troop cuts in Central Europe, Moscow is looking for a "peace dividend" from reduced military spending, but the cost of returning army units could hit the tottering economy hard.

Savings from defence bills may be soaked up by the cost of re-integrating the returning army units.

Soviet armed forces, already battered by budget cuts and a falling public image, have indicated they expect hefty government handouts to ease the shock of a sudden tilt towards the civilian

sector.

General Mikhail Moiseyev, commander-in-chief of the armed forces, told the military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda at the weekend that 35,000 troops and 30,000 families would soon return from Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Similar withdrawals from Poland and East Germany cannot be excluded, he added.

"We will bring the troops home but no one has clearly thought out what it will cost," Moiseyev told the daily. "We will face still sharper social problems in connection with housing officers and their families."

"Families will find themselves without apartments or work, children without schools," said Moiseyev. "Of course, there must be an entire

programme of social security."

But so far there are few signs of a coherent policy to address these issues in the face of a crushing budget deficit of some 92 billion roubles (\$150 billion).

In talks with Czechoslovak officials, Soviet officials have said they are not ready to meet Prague's year-end deadline for a withdrawal of forces, partly because of the housing shortage and lack of social services for the returning troops.

The scaling-back of the military will affect the defence industries, until now the beneficiary of high wages and benefits and high-quality raw materials.

"When all or part of a plant converts to civilian production, will the workers lose their special housing, food and wages? Can they still compete if they are

treated like everyone else?" said a Western diplomat.

Politburo member Lev Zaikov, deputy chairman of the Defence Council, has called for a law on conversion to safeguard workers' salaries and benefits.

"Such a law would protect the rights of the personnel employed in the munitions industry, so that the switching of sectors does not affect their living standard," he told Radio Moscow's Interfax publication last month.

Zaikov also said hard-pressed consumers should not expect quick results from conversion, a big departure from recent media campaigns extolling the virtues of television sets and refrigerators built by former bomb makers.

World oil industry

## Subroto predicts continued growth

QUITO, Feb 13, (Reuters): Opec secretary-general Subroto on Monday predicted a continued growth of the world oil industry over the next five years and a rise in demand and prices.

"We expect a growth rate in the world economy until 1995 of 3.3 per cent which means that oil demand will increase between 1.5 and 1.6 per cent per year," Subroto told a news conference during a visit to the Ecuadorian capital to attend a conference on the oil industry.

He estimated world oil demand in 1995 would be about 55 million barrels per day which would be produced in equal parts by Opec and non-Opec nations.

"The production of non-Opec countries will fall in the next five years from 33 to 28 million barrels a day," he said. "Opec production will rise from 22 to 27 million barrels a day."

He said Opec production was between 23.5 and 23.8 million barrels per day in January which showed an increase in the demand for Opec crude and also an increase in Opec production.

He also said that as the demand for crude rises "the cohesion and solidarity among members of Opec will be easier to maintain than in the past."

Turning to prices, he said, "if we maintain the reference price of \$18 a barrel, that will mean in real terms a price of \$23.50 in 1995 but there are still many uncertain things that prevent us from calculating it right now."

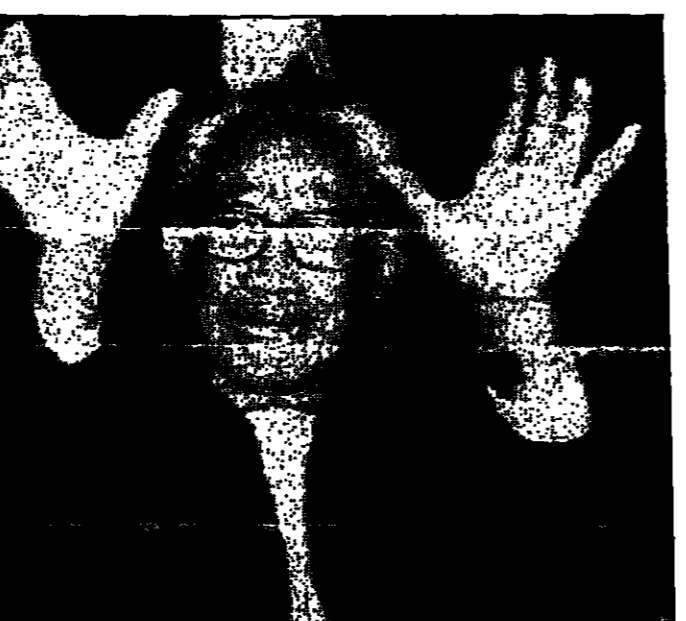
Subroto is expected to address the conference in Quito about the prospects for Opec in the next century, organisers said.

His visit coincides with a meeting of government energy officials from Andean pact nations who are discussing plans to boost energy co-operation.

Meanwhile, oil futures prices finished higher in "a corrective rally" on the New York Mercantile Exchange Monday after crude rebounded from a support level that has endured for the past six weeks.

March delivery West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark US crude, ended the day on the Merc at 29 cents at \$22.03 a barrel after hitting a low on the day of \$21.65 a barrel. WTI gained 30 cents to a bid of \$22.05 on the US Gulf Coast cash market.

"This is the fourth time since



Subroto

the beginning of the year that we have bounced back from the \$21.65 support level," said an official.

In another development the Soviet union has cut crude oil deliveries to Poland by a third for the first quarter of 1990 and Warsaw may have to look elsewhere for supplies, the government newspaper Rzeczpospolita said today.

The cutback by Moscow, which provides most of Poland's oil imports, followed reported reductions in Soviet oil and gas supplies to other East European countries.

Jerzy Szewczyk, director of state oil firm CPN, told Rzeczpospolita that Moscow had cut deliveries of crude oil for the first three months of this year to 2.1 million tonnes from 3.1 million tonnes.

He did not make clear if all the deliveries had been made yet but said petrol stations would not be affected if demand remained the same until the end of the first quarter.

"However, if demand grows the CPN will buy fuel abroad," Szewczyk said. He gave no details and government officials declined to comment.

Oil analysts in London have said that falling Soviet oil sales to Eastern Europe could provide the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) with extra business.

External debt totals \$29.12 b

## Nigeria to ask creditors to write off debt

PARIS, Feb 13, (Reuters): Nigeria is to ask for part of its debt to be written off or rescheduled to prevent its 1990 export revenue being totally eaten up by debt payments, Budget Minister Alhaji Abubakar Alhaji said.

Nigeria will approach its government creditors in the Paris Club, who bear half its external debt, at a meeting during the first quarter of 1990, Alhaji said in an interview published on Monday in the French evening daily Le Monde.

"The industrial nations have begun to write off the debts of certain countries. We want a more significant part of our debt to be forgiven. Failing that, we want a long-term rescheduling," he said.

Nigeria won a rescheduling of its Paris Club debt in March 1989.

Alhaji said that if the debt was not renegotiated, the 43 billion naira (\$5.5 billion) of export revenues Nigeria expected in 1990 would be eaten up almost entirely by debt servicing of 40 billion naira (\$5.1 billion).

He recently put Nigeria's external debt at \$29.12 billion.

Alhaji said it would be difficult to ease up on the

government's current austerity drive because Western countries would then refuse aid.

"The Western powers ought to be ashamed of themselves — ashamed to demand such severe adjustment programmes before consenting to give their assistance."

Alhaji said the results of the adjustment policies were beginning to bear fruit, with essential goods no longer scarce, agricultural production improving and the non-oil sector now accounting for around one quarter of exports.

But increased productivity was still needed to fight inflation which remained a source of concern. He did not contradict the figure of 47 per cent for inflation in 1989 suggested by Le Monde.

Another problem was the increase in the population which continued to outstrip economic growth.

"We are consuming more than we are producing," Alhaji said.

The present military regime is scheduled to hand over to an elected government in late 1992.

Asked whether that might lead to a re-run of past errors by civilian governments, Alhaji replied: "I don't think a sensible government can go back on the fundamental reforms."

markets because of Drexel's pre-eminence in the \$200-billion junk bond market, which collapsed last fall after several companies failed to meet financing terms on the securities.

The firm also was hammered by its decision to plead guilty to six felonies and pay \$650 million to the government to settle charges related to insider trading and other offences. Drexel was forced to restructure as part of a civil settlement with the SEC and has since cut its work force to 5,300 from 10,700.

In Monday's statement, Drexel said its senior members had concluded it should seek outside assistance because "unsettled markets, particularly in the high-yield area, have adversely affected the liquidity" of its parent, Drexel Burnham Lambert Group Inc.

Drexel said its securities subsidiary "continues to have good liquidity and has satisfactory excess regulatory capital."

The firm last week began to shift cash to the strapped parent from its securities subsidiary, but the move alarmed officials at the Fed, the US Central Bank, and the SEC, who feared it might weaken the subsidiary.

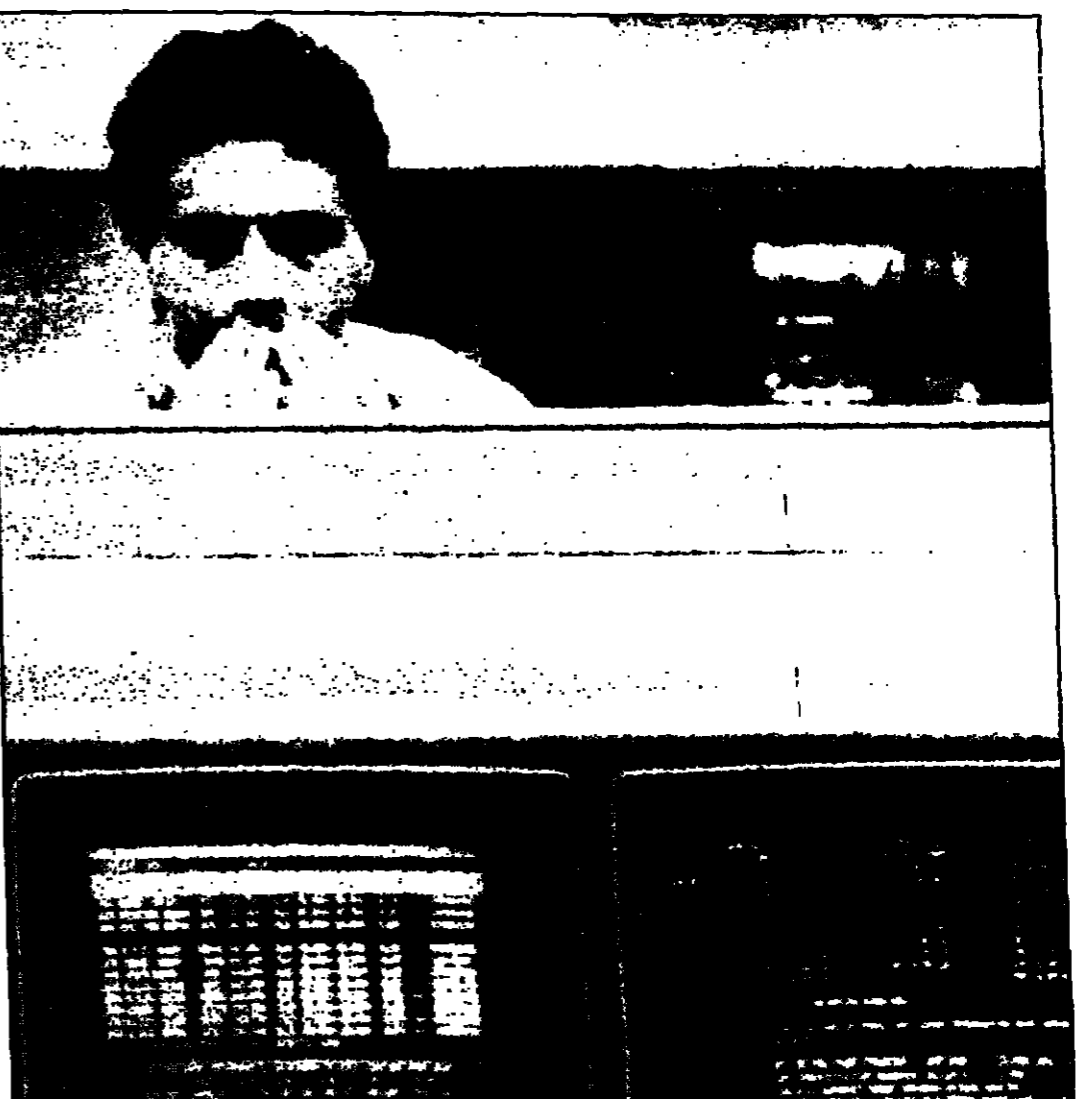
## Dollar gains

LONDON, Feb 13, (AP): The US dollar ended European dealings today largely ahead of Monday's levels, despite late selling triggered by news that the parent of troubled Drexel Burnham Lambert was considering filing for bankruptcy court protection.

Gold was lower. Dealers said in London that volume was checked in the late afternoon as the market waited to assess the impact of the Drexel Burnham Lambert announcement.

The dollar drew support from the report that US retail sales were up 1.6 per cent in January, a figure that encouraged hopes that interest rates will remain firm, analysts said.

Gold fell in London to a late bid price of \$418.65, down from \$419.50 bid late Monday.



Bond prices set to fall

A Dutch bond dealer at the ABN Algemeen Bank Nederland shows the strain of a declining day on the European markets, after bond prices fell a staggering 1.70 guilders in one day. Speculation on German monetary union has caused bond prices to fall sharply in Holland. (Reuters wirephoto)

Demand fading

## Filofax hit by slump

LONDON, Feb 13, (Reuters): Filofax, the company that makes personal organisers for people going places, has been hit hard by a shopping slump and fading demand from business executives.

The paperback-sized binder, patented over 50 years ago by a shorthand typist, won commercial success in the 1980s as a vital accessory for "Yuppies" — young upwardly mobile professionals.

At the height of its success Britain's Filofax Group Plc hailed the files, sold in over 30 countries, as "one of the great marketing phenomena of the 1980s."

But poor retail sales in Britain, the firm's biggest market, and a flood of cheaper imitations have wiped out profits.

Filofax chairman David Collis said yesterday the company expected to record a loss for the second half of 1989. He declined to be more specific but stock analysts have predicted the loss in the six months to last December 31 could be around £1 million (\$1.7 million). The figures are due to be released in April.

Filofax, which in 1988 made record pre-tax profits of £2.7 million (\$4.5 million), has already posted a £554,000 (\$940,000) pre-tax loss for first-half 1989.

Filofax shares on Britain's unlisted securities market were trading unchanged at 36 pence (60 cents) today, around one third of their value at the company's public launch in 1987.

Collis said the company was partly a victim of its own success as the executive market which helped cause the Filofax boom was now well-supplied with the built-to-last binders.

"The heavy years in which the company doubled its growth every year are definitely over," Collis said.

"However, writing the Filofax off as a product of the 1980s is a mistake."

The Filofax, with its appointment diaries and credit card holders, came to symbolise the pursuit of affluence and career success associated with the 1980s. The price of the binder alone — starting at about £40 (\$67) — maintained the exclusive image.

## TRAIN TODAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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Horticulture, Agriculture: Royal Hort. Society Exams, Intensive Market Gardening, Complete Gardening, General Agriculture.

Business: Business Management, Book-keeping & Accountancy, Private Secretarial Practice, Speedwriting, Running Your Own Business, Marketing, Personnel Management, Advertising, Public Relations, Supervision, Salesmanship, Storekeeping, Executive Assistant, Typing.

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ICS

## Japanese trade team for Iran

TOKYO, Feb 13, (Reuters): The Japan Federation of Economic Organisations (Keidanren) said today it will send a mission to Iran next month in response to a request from Tehran.

The mission of about 50 members, led by Keidanren vice chairman Masao Kanamori, will visit from March 8 to 16 and meet President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and other Iranian government officials.

It will discuss possible Japanese private sector economic co-operation in aiding the war-damaged Iranian economy.

Keidanren has not sent a mission to Iran since April 1971, a federation spokesman said.

At the end of January Japanese trade officials said that an Iranian Oil Ministry mission on a week-long visit to Tokyo described a new economic plan that called for up to \$27 billion of foreign credits.

The Japanese officials said Iran was seeking Japanese expertise and finance for a five-year plan aimed at reviving its economy.

Trade sources said the Iranian delegation, led by Deputy Oil Minister Masoud Hedayatollah, gave no details of the projects in meetings with executives of Japanese trading firms.

## Gulf banks' performance to be reviewed

KUWAIT, Feb 13, (Kuna): Secretary general of Arab Gulf chambers Mohammed Al Mulla said that Arab Gulf chambers, with the participation of joint European chambers, are preparing for holding a conference in France to discuss commercial relations and joint investments with Europe.

Al Mulla added in an interview published here today by local dailies, that the conference will also tackle Gulf banks performance in Europe and possible effects following Europe's unity in 1992.

He said that the Paris conference will be held after the Grenada, Spain, conference which will be held next week with the attendance of 400 European industrialist and around 200 representatives of the Gulf region.

He noted that Grenada conference will be a good opportunity to get acquainted with two sides view points regarding industry, commerce and financial deals.

On the Arab Gulf chambers preparations to deal with Europe after 1992, Al Mulla said that dealing with one party is easier than with different parties, but the type of dealings will not be one in this case because when Europe unites it will impose what it wants to any negotiations, particularly that the Arab Gulf states are still importer countries.

## Brokers get reprieve

JAKARTA, Feb 13, (Reuters): Indonesia's stock-brokers, indignant at having to sing the national anthem every morning, have been given a reprieve by the Finance Ministry.

Ministry officials said today that new rules, which also involved brokers reciting a daily pledge of good conduct, had been withdrawn.

Brokers had complained that the rules, announced last week by the stock market's governing board, would encourage discipline and professionalism, were absurd.

## Currency rates

KUWAIT, Feb 13, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Buy	Sell
US dollar	0.29033	0.29138
Sterling	0.48889	0.49229
DM	0.17229	0.17349
Sw. Fr.	0.19246	0.19387
F.Fr.	0.05069	0.05107
It. lra.	0.0002329	0.000234
Jap yen	0.002064	0.0020614
Bah. din.	0.76984	0.77310
UAE Dir.	0.07901	0.07935
S. ryal	0.07736	0.07771
Q. ryal	0.07970	0.08006
O. ryal	0.75364	0.75713

## Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Feb 13, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/2	8-3/4
3 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
6 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
1 year	8-1/2	8-3/4

# West fears Iranian economy still hostage to ideology

DUBAI, Feb 13, (Reuters): When the late Ayatollah Khomeini told Muslims to kill British author Salman Rushdie, he also dealt a body blow at hopes that Iran might develop more economic ties with the West.

Exactly one year later, a new government is trying to persuade Western capitalists that they can deal safely with revolutionary Islam.

But the fear persists that economic progress will remain a hostage to unpredictable ideological outbursts as long as Khomeini's Islamic legacy remains so close to the centre of political life.

"Until the government separates religion further from economics, we would still see two steps forward but three steps back," said an Arab bank economist.

Last Friday, Khomeini's religious heir Ayatollah Ali Khamenei renewed Iran's call to kill Rushdie, for blasphemy against Islam.

Inured by a year of threats against Rushdie, the West did not recoil in shock but "it did not nothing to help the situation," said a Gulf-based European diplomat.

In the past month, new President Hashemi Ali Akbar Rafsanjani's cabinet of picked economic specialists have made major deals with Japan, West Germany, France, Italy and a Dubai firm to develop the key energy sector.

Tehran cannot repair the economy, devastated by eight years of war with Iraq, until it overcomes energy shortages which keep part of its industry running as low as 20

per cent capacity, Iranian economists say. Despite Rafsanjani's perceived political pragmatism, his authority rests on Khomeini's Islamic system just as much as the authority of the purists in government who view any compromise with the West with distaste.

Analysts compared the Iranian government's situation with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's problem of reducing communism's overbearing influence on the economy without causing the absolute collapse of communism itself.

The West remains cautious. Washington has not changed its policy since warning US firms to stay clear of Iran when its diplomats were held hostage in Tehran in 1979. European Economic Community govern-

ments, which withdrew ambassadors from Tehran in protest at Khomeini's execution order on Rushdie issued on February 14 last year, tell their firms to exercise caution, although they never cut off official export credits for Iran.

"The situation is still very fraught. Relations can be torpedoed any time when they (Tehran) suddenly take exception to Rushdie, or girls not being allowed to wear Islamic headscarves in French schools, or whatever," said a Western diplomat.

Iranian and Western economists see two main reasons why the government — even the purists — are ready for closer foreign economic ties.

First, they say, Tehran realises failure to raise living standards or provide hope of a

better economic future could create uncontrollable popular resentment.

The example of the popular challenge to communism in Eastern Europe has not gone unnoticed in Tehran. Former Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu visited Iran days before he was deposed and executed.

Secondly, Tehran worries that unless it acts quickly to soothe Western fears, it might miss out on foreign capital with Western governments and firms preferring to invest in Eastern Europe.

On its own, Iran cannot generate enough hard currency to reconstruct rapidly. Last month it announced major policies to attract foreign capital and investment. Parliament approved a new five-year

plan, including \$27 billion in foreign financing and investment.

The Finance Ministry said the Central Bank would guarantee certain foreign loans, and allow up to 49 per cent foreign equity in joint ventures, the highest ever allowed in Iran.

Some analysts feel the changes are being driven by necessity rather than by any real change in underlying philosophy. They point to difficulties achieving domestic economic liberalisation.

Western businessmen who deal with Iran say progress is slow outside the arena of state-authorised projects. Bankers who fund trade with Iran say commercial banks are still unwilling to lend without firm official guarantees.

## Egyptian exhibition to boost trade

# Saudi market lures biggest trade fair

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Feb 13, (Reuters): Egypt's biggest foreign trade fair opens in Saudi Arabia tomorrow with some 200 Egyptian firms eager to enter the kingdom's wealthy consumer market.

The exhibition in the kingdom's commercial capital reflects growing warmth in Saudi-Egyptian relations restored three years ago after a 10-year break over Cairo's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Saudi Arabia postponed its own national industrial exhibition to allow Egypt the honour of opening the new Jeddah Inter-

national Fair Centre. The Egyptian firms, a mixture of publicly-owned and private companies, are offering a wide range of goods from textiles and readymade garments to electrical appliances, furniture, foodstuff, leather products and ceramics.

"Any Egyptian product that can compete with foreign products will find a place in the Saudi market," said Ezzat Ghazi, Egypt's commercial attaché in Jeddah.

Bilateral trade in 1988 totalled 900 million rials (\$240 million).

Final figures for 1989 were not available, but Ghazi said they were certainly higher.

He expected the Egyptian fair to boost trade to one billion rials (\$267 million) in 1990.

"We believe we'll achieve this figure, God willing," Ghazi said, adding that trade exchanges were balanced.

Egypt imported petrochemicals, cables and power pylons from Saudi Arabia while Cairo sold iron, steel, aluminium and farm products.

Ghazi said there were promising signs in the Saudi market for Egyptian furniture, leather

products and carpets.

The two countries plan to increase trade through tax exemption and studies are under way for a regular sea link to ease the flow of goods.

Ghazi said up to June Saudi Arabia had invested 960 million Egyptian pounds (\$375 million) in 174 joint ventures in Egypt, with total costs of \$2.5 billion (\$1 billion). These covered industrial and farm products.

Saudi Arabia also has shares worth \$5 million (\$2.3 million) in Egyptian firms producing medical equipment and aper among other things.



Al Chalabi

## Turkey, Iraq sign accord

### Loan pact

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Feb 13, (AP): Turkey has signed protocols with Iraq to open a total of \$800 million in credits to the neighbouring country, a cabinet minister said Monday.

State Minister Isai Celebi, returning from a visit to Iraq, told reporters at Istanbul's Ataturk airport that a protocol was signed to provide a credit of \$400 million to finance Iraq's imports from Turkey.

Celebi said a second agreement was also signed with Iraq to open another credit of \$400 million to be used to finance Iraqi projects that would be carried out by Turkish contractors.

Celebi flew to Baghdad on Saturday to deliver to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein a message from his Turkish counterpart Turgut Ozal.

Ozal's message was in response to an earlier message delivered to him by Iraqi Oil Minister Islam Al Chalabi that requested development of mutual relations in every field, Celebi said.

Celebi said Ozal expressed the same desire in his message. He said he held talks with Iraqi Deputy Premier in charge of economic affairs and the Ministers of Industry, Finance and Trade.

He said his talks included waters of the Euphrates river and they agreed to maintain negotiations on the matter.

Turkey yesterday started allowing Euphrates River waters to flow south to Syria and Iraq one month after diverting the main flow of the river in order to increase the water level in the reservoir of the Ataturk dam and to finish some construction work on derivation channels.

Iraq and Syria protested Turkey's action, expressing fear that their farmlands would be damaged and their electricity production would be reduced.

Iraq asked Turkey to reduce the cut-off period to two weeks from a month, but Turkey refused, saying it had released extra water before the cut-off to make up for the shortfall.



Protest against farm policies

A demonstrator struggles with his cow in front of the European Parliament as several thousand French and German farmers march to protest European agricultural policies. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Britain's largest white-collar scandal

# First trial begins in Guinness scandal

LONDON, Feb 13, (AP): The first "Guinness affair" trial began Monday, nearly four years after giant brewer Guinness PLC won the multimillion-dollar takeover battle for Distillers Co. that spawned the alleged stock manipulation case.

In Britain's largest white-collar scandal, eight men, including Guinness' former chairman Ernest Saunders, have been accused of involvement in a scheme to arrange for the purchase of Guinness' stock during the takeover fight for Distillers, a Scotch whisky and gin maker.

The alleged aim was to boost the share price and thus make Guinness' £2.53 billion (\$4.3 billion) cash and stock bid more attractive than a rival bid from supermarket operator Argill Group PLC.

Guinness succeeded in April 1986 in what was Britain's largest takeover ever. But in December of that year, the Department of

Trade and Industry announced it was investigating, and the alleged financial wrongdoing started coming into the public light.

The defendants in the first trial, which is expected to last up to six months, are Saunders, 54; Gerald Ronson, the 50-year-old chairman of the diversified conglomerate Heron International PLC; former stockbroker Anthony Parnes, 44; and millionaire financier and arts patron Sir Jack Lyons, 74.

They face a total of 35 charges including stock manipulation, theft, false accounting and destroying documents.

The court clerk took 25 minutes to read the indictment, which ran about 24 pages.

Earlier, a jury of seven men and five women as sworn in after being selected from among 100 potential jurors.

The trial judge, Sir Denis Henry, adjourned the case until today to give the jurors time to put their affairs in order.

The judge ruled last September that because of the complexity of the case it should be split into two consecutive trials.

In the second trial, not scheduled to begin before October, Saunders will be joined by Roger Seelig, 44, former Morgan Grenfell and Co. Ltd., corporate finance director; Lord Patrick Spens, 47, former director of corporate finance at the merchant bank Henry Ansbacher and Co. Ltd.; and David Mayhew, 43, who continues as senior corporate finance partner of the investment firm Cazenove and Co.

The seven men have pleaded innocent to the charges and each is free on £500,000 (\$850,000) bail.

The eighth man is US lawyer Thomas Ward, whose extradition from the United States is being sought by British police who have lodged charges against him. Ward has denied wrongdoing.

# Peace helps turn Parker pens from loss to profit

NEW YORK, Feb 13, (Reuters): Peace and détente have helped turn the red ink into black on the balance sheet of Parker Pen USA.

When Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan signed a landmark nuclear arms treaty in 1987, the British-owned company seized the chance to donate two of its finest pens.

It won front-page publicity when the two leaders used the silver-plated pens to seal the deal to scrap medium-range nuclear missiles.

"Reagan preferred using the felt tip and Gorbachev used the fountain pen," recalled Peter Bentley, head of Parker's North American operations.

Bentley said such high profile events have helped turn losses into profits for Parker Pen USA, one of 19 subsidiaries

owned by Britain's Parker Pen Ltd. In its 1985 financial year, while worldwide operations were healthy, Parker USA had losses of \$23 million. But within a year it was showing a profit. It is based in Janesville, Wisconsin — Parker's original home before it became a private British company in 1986.

Now the US subsidiary contributes a quarter of the company's world sales, which topped \$260 million in 1989. US chief executive officer Bentley told Reuters.

He said the turnaround came after Parker USA reassessed its image and moved upmarket. It aggressively promoted its fountain pens and top-of-the-line ballpoints instead of depending on large sales volumes at the bottom end of the market.

"The United States used to be a throw-away society. But there's been a real shift toward quality," explained Bentley, who added that the computer age had helped, not hindered, pen sales.

"People said the typewriter spelled the end of the pen, then came the electric typewriter. When the computer arrived, people said that must be the end — but the market just keeps growing," said Bentley.

Modern technology, in fact, rekindled interest in the old-fashioned and unique, said Bentley.

"Today people need individuality and want to personalise things. A good pen is like a good watch or a classic suit," said Bentley, brandishing a broad-nibbed black and gold fountain pen. He named "The Yuppie Wall Street type,

in their 30s and 40s" as big buyers and givers of quality pens, especially in the \$40 to \$70 range.

"They haven't grown up using fountain pens but they want to return to the past," explained Bentley.

While the overall writing market is growing at about a five per cent annual rate, the top end of the business is expanding about 27 per cent annually, the company said.

Parker's US sales are split 40 per cent to 60 per cent between quality and functional pens respectively, with its cheapest pen selling for five dollars and its solid gold fountain pen fetching \$4,000. The company projects future growth of 15 per cent a year — triple the industry average.

Bentley stressed that the style of Parker is matched by its technical quality.

# \$20m bank loan

## Panama investigates

PANAMA CITY, Feb 13, (Reuters): Panama's new government is investigating a \$20 million economic development loan made in 1988 by a Libyan bank to the government of deposed strongman General Manuel Noriega, a senior government official said on Monday.

Also under investigation are two loans totalling more than \$20 million from two Spanish banks in 1987 to buy four combat aircraft for the now abolished Panamanian defence forces, controller General Ruben Dario Carles said.

Noriega was deposed in a US invasion which started December 20 and brought the new government to power.

Carles said records showed the loan from the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank was to be used for economic development and no repayments had been made.

"It's crazy. What business does he (Khaddafi) have lending money to these people?" he said.

The loans are among nearly a dozen approved by the former government between 1987 and 1989 which are under investigation, Carles said in an interview.

"In those days there was a lot of talk about ... the possibility of (Libyan Colonel Muammar) Khaddafi helping Noriega," said Carles. "But now we are investigating we discover that in the books of Banco Nacional is (a loan) of \$20 million."

In April 1988, then vice-president George Bush charged that Libya was lending Panama millions of dollars after the Reagan administration had imposed economic sanctions a month earlier designed to topple Noriega. Bush offered no proof to back up the allegation.

Banking Stock Exchange prices (Feb 13, 1990)	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	334	333	339
Alm Chem	—	—	—
Alw Nix	—	—	—
Ad Fab	—	—	—
Asbok Ley	84	82	83
Asia Paint	212.50	211.25	212.50
Asia Corp	47.50	47.50	50
Auto Corp	375.50	385	386.25
Bejaj Auto	387.50	385	386.25
Bar Rayon	705	700	695
Blow Plast	194.50	192	195
Bom Dye	95	93	94
BK Bond	80	82.50	80
Bar West	—	—	—
Cantare	3125	3100	3100
Can Eng	2500	2480	2460
Colgate	181.25	180	181.25
Crest Gr	930	920	935
DCM	14.50	13	14
Deep Part	30.50	30	30.50
Dunlop	60	58	60
El Khatib	60	60	60
Eccorts	80	78.50	80
ESSE Index	673.27	673.27	673.27
Bakayev	126.25	123.75	127.50
Kyrgyz	27.25	27.50	27.25
Food Sp	103.50	101.25	103.75
Forbes	49	48	49.25
Gar Poly	42.75	42.25	42.75

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Forbes	49	48	49.25
Gar Poly	42.75	42.25	42.75

## SHIPPING MOVEMENTS



# Are you nosey or neighbourly?

Are you helpful and caring... or just plain curious? If you call round offering tea and sympathy does it mean you are genuinely concerned about someone who lives in your street — or dying to get the low-down, first-hand, on their troubles? On a desert island, would you miss most the warmth and friendship — or the buzz you get with the gossip? This quiz will help you to discover whether you are neighbourly or nosey. Just answer each question quickly and honestly and see how you score.

- The new people have arrived next door but one. The removal van is being unloaded. Do you:
  - go straight round and introduce yourself so they will know it is a friendly neighbour-hood
  - go straight round and check if they have all their immediate needs in the way of electricity, tea, coffee — then get out of their hair
  - leave it an hour or two then check. One of their immediate neighbours will probably have seen if they are okay by then
  - just watch through the window to see what their taste in furniture tells you about them or
  - do nothing. If they want to get to know you later on they can make the first move when they are ready?
- The next door neighbour's children keep throwing balls into your garden. Do you:
  - throw them back
  - let them collect them
  - keep them
  - rush straight in with them or
  - go in and complain?
- You see the police at the door of a house in your street. When they leave, the teenage son of the house leaves with them. Do you:
  - go straight over and ask what is happening
  - go straight over and ask if there is anything you can do
  - want to go straight over to see if you can help but hesitate in case they feel you are intruding
  - forget it. It's none of your business or
  - say and do nothing, but watch the local paper?
- The man next door says his telephone is out of order and asks can he use yours. You suspect he just wants to make a call without his wife being able to hear. Do you:
  - let him. It is none of your business
  - let him. But make sure you stay where you can hear
  - let him. But make a point of mentioning it to his wife next day
  - let him. But make a sufficient show of reluctance to ensure he will be unlikely to ask you again or
  - refuse?
- You are worried that a child in your street seems too accident-prone to be true. Do you:
  - confront the parents
  - quiz the child
  - report your suspicions to the police or welfare authorities
  - persuade yourself you must be imagining it or
  - keep an eye on the child and see what happens?
- Do you think soap operas are:
  - good, light entertainment
  - good, but habit-forming, entertainment
  - okay to watch once in a while
  - your last choice of viewing
  - a waste of time. You'd rather switch off?
- You hear your next door neighbours having a good ding-dong. Next day, do you:
  - pop in for a cup of sugar
  - ask her in for a cup of coffee and ask her if she is okay
  - ask her in for a cup of coffee next day but tactfully keep off the subjects of rows, husbands and her wellbeing unless she brings them up
  - ignore her next day — and him, too, if your paths cross or
  - just play it as it comes?
- A neighbour comes to the door to borrow a cup of sugar. Do you:
  - say you are all out
  - give them one at once
  - keep them on the doorstep while you have a good chat first
  - ask them in for a chat or
  - agree. But make a big deal of it. You don't want them making a habit of it?
- A neighbour's child starts telling you about Uncle X, this friend of mummy's who comes to the house when daddy is out and who mummy goes out to see. Do you:
  - change the subject
  - change the subject and then deliberately put the whole conversation out of your mind
  - listen if they seem really to want to tell you
  - listen, and encourage them with questions to give you the complete or
  - (e) as (d), and pump the mother next chance you get, too?
- A neighbour who moved in a few weeks ago puts a note through your door saying they will be having a housewarming party Saturday night and apologising in advance for any noise. Do you:
  - deliberately misinterpret it as an invitation
  - decide to go out that night
  - decide to stay in and watch the arrivals and departures
  - discuss with the other neighbours what you should all do about it. After all, if you don't clamp down on this sort of trouble at the start it could get out of hand or
  - use it as an excuse to go over and have a chat to them about how they are liking their new home and setting in?
- A neighbour you hardly know says she is desperate and pleads with you to babysit. Do you:
  - refuse. Once you do that sort of thing once, it never ends
  - agree on condition it is clearly understood that it is an emergency-only arrangement
  - agree. It is always interesting to see other people's living rooms anyway
  - agree. And reward yourself by having a really good look round once the children are asleep, or
  - agree, and tell her she must not hesitate to call on you again?
- You really like the people next door but they are a bit easy-going and their front garden is a rather a tip. Other neighbours are starting to talk behind their backs. Do you:
  - tip them off
  - stay out of it or
  - offer to help clear it up?
- Neighbours going on holiday ask you to water their plants. Hand on heart, will you:
  - say "no"
  - say "yes" — but forget
  - agree — and stick strictly to the rooms you have to go in to keep your word
  - agree — but have a good look round to satisfy your curiosity as well. After all, they would do the same?
- If you are ill, would you prefer neighbours to:
  - leave you alone
  - offer help if you need it but leave it to you then to take them up on it or not or
  - call regularly to check how you are and what you need?
- A neighbour asks you to accept a parcel that is going to be delivered while they are out. Do you:
  - say you don't want to

## 'Canadian' — a new cure for illiteracy

TORONTO, (Reuters): Salvation is at hand for the struggling illiterates of the world. Baffled by grammar and befuddled by spelling, they can learn "Canadian". Toronto schoolteacher Ted Culp argues that English just isn't good enough. Its grammar is too illogical and its spelling maddeningly bizarre.

So he's invented a new improved version, which may look rigid and peculiar, he admits, but has the benefits of simplicity and consistency.

"Canadian," a language so far known and loved by only a few enthusiasts in Toronto, will sweep the world, making it child's play to learn to read and write, Culp says.

He is determined to succeed where George Bernard Shaw and Lazarus Zamenhof, inventor of the international language Esperanto, both failed.

"We must have kwikku to adopt the new language, and not to prolong the linguistic agony," he writes in the newsletter of the International Union for the Canadian Language.

The most important step is spelling, according to Culp.

**Verbs**

Out goes the illogical letter q you write kwik(quick) and kwier(quiet). All silent letters are also out if you don't say them, don't spell with them. That leaves you with logical vowel sounds and completely phonetic spelling.

Then there's the grammar.

Out go all differences in verb conjugations. Combine the future tense and the verb of necessity and it looks like this: They will must to go.

Very strange at first, but very easy once you get the hang of it, Culp says.

"Everybody recognises there is a problem," the tall, bespectacled academic said. "I know the way. I consider myself to be a prophet."

"English is the world international language but it won't hold its position in the cybernetic age. French and German didn't hold their position. I am suggesting "Canadian" will replace English."

But what about the joys of Shakespeare and the wealth of other literature lost to those who abandon English?

The sacrifice is worth it, Culp says.

Lost literature is a small price to pay for the new language, which will solve the problem of slow learners and help scientists whose language skills are poor because languages are so irrational, he says.

**Critic**

Culp, last seen carrying a teach-yourself-Bengali textbook in his large and crammed briefcase, has learnt from the language mistakes of reformers who went before him.

Shaw, the Irish dramatist and critic, failed because he wanted to introduce a completely new alphabet, which was too large a

leap for the common man.

Esperanto, the simple language invented by Zamenhof, a Polish oculist, blossomed at first but has wilted because no one uses it in everyday life.

"Canadian" has no such problems, Culp says. It uses the English alphabet and Canadians (already) speak "Canadian."

Culp's endeavors are not just for the benefit of English speakers, however. He has also invented a simple form of French — Toronto French, or Le Français-Toronto.

Lovers of the logical can subscribe to his newspaper, "The Times of Toronto."

As he puts it: "Eradicate illiteracy use the Canadian language at all times."

### FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

## ARTIFICIAL NAILS CAN CREATE HEALTH HAZARDS

**Question:** I had some artificial nails placed on my own fingers in the hope that my hands could look better than they do now. A girlfriend said I was taking some big chances, that there were dangers to this simple process and I was being foolish. Is there any basis for her warnings?

**Answer:** No matter the process by which you increased the size, shape and allure of your fingernails, there certainly are some risks that you should be aware of.

For the most part, artificial nails are made of a plastic or acrylic and are attached to the natural nail surface with glue, which also contains one of a number of acrylic substances. Though the results may look pleasing, the lengthened nail exposes the underlying nail bed to more trauma and injury, more frequent knocks and blows, which may lead to a separation of your natural nail from its nail bed.

Your natural nails absorb a great deal of water when immersing the hands in water during normal washing and other daily chores. The water dries out quite easily through evaporation. However, when an artificial nail is in place this process can't take place, leaving the nails water-logged for long periods of time. This forms a perfect environment in which bacteria and yeasts grow rapidly, and infections develop that are a real hazard to the health of the nail.

A third risk is that of allergic reaction to the chemicals contained in the glue, which could cause the nails to break down or provoke a dermatitis of the fingers, and in some cases, skin rashes over other parts of the body. One such acrylic, methacrylate, has been banned by the Food and Drug Administration for this use because these negative effects were commonly found.

Although your glamorous nails make you feel good about yourself, do give your natural nails frequent periods of extended rest from these additions, so that they may retain their natural strength and function.

**Inferility**

**Question:** I'm 26 years of age, married for about six years, and wish very much to have a baby. We have been seeing a doctor who has been very helpful and reassuring. He has been hinting lately that my problem is not being helped by the 35 pounds or so that I am overweight, and has become stricter about my diet programme. Is there any truth to his opinion, or is this inspired by general attitude on fitness?

**Answer:** Fitness and normal weight are important factors in just about every health problem I deal with, and I might be supportive of your physician's perspective on this basis alone, but there is now more evidence to consider.

Inferility is not a simple condition, and there are many factors and causes, both on the man's side as well as the woman's. Abnormal ovulation may be one of those causes, and new research sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and conducted at the University of Washington in Seattle, would seem to point to weight as a factor in this condition.

Weight disorders are generally accepted as contributing to menstrual disorders, but researchers now estimate that among women who have never had a child, weighing too much accounts for 6 per cent of infertility related to ovulation problems, and the same number of cases in women who weigh too little. It would appear that your physician's opinion is based upon more than instinct or attitude and has a sound scientific basis.

We'd all like to believe we're getting better with age (instead of just older). A new booklet by Dr Bruckheim tells how you can get the most out of life's later years. AGING — LEARN TO ENJOY THE INEVITABLE explains what happens to men and women as they age and what they can do to make life more comfortable and fulfilling. To order your copy, write to AGING, P.O. Box 4406, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4406.

### WHAT YOUR SCORE MEANS

195 — 290

Hello, nosey! You probably don't need me to tell you that other people's business is the spice of your life. If you want to keep harmony in the neighbourhood, there are a few things it would be advisable for you to do.

First, curb your curiosity as much as you can. Second, when you really cannot resist sticking your nose in, offer a little hot soup, sympathy, or the appropriate service along with it. It will help tone down the potential resentment.

And finally, watch as many soaps as you like. That way, you may satisfy some of your appetite for other people's affairs in the most harmless way possible.

There is a flip side. If there is a neighbourhood watch scheme in your area, join it. It needs people like you. And if there is not, you might be just the right person to channel all that interest in others in a creative direction and start one.

95 — 190

Hi, neighbour! You are just the person to have next door in a crisis — or any other day of the week. You respect the feelings of people around you but know just when to step in and lend a hand.

You are always willing to help, but know how not to make people feel you are crowding them out with kindness.

There will be others, though, who will take advantage of you if you are not on your guard. Too open a door can lead to being treated as too easy a doormat.

Let yourself say "no" once in a while.

0-90

You are neither nosey nor neighbourly. You are not particularly interested in what is going on in the next house or street. Your circle of friends does not have a geographical boundary and you regard who is next door as an irrelevant detail in your life.

And, while you might be a good friend, you feel no responsibility to the strangers or near-strangers who happen to share the same street.

You are, of course, quite within your rights. But a little more give would not necessarily encourage them to take liberties. And there just could come a day when you find you are in need of a little neighbourliness yourself.

## Astronomy

### Anticipating new technologies

German astronomers have caused a sensation with two rarities of a different sort. A research institute has produced a large solar telescope; others are designing a larger telescope, whose 12 meter mirror is one day to be supported by six moveable legs, just like a flight simulator.

THE Vakuum-Turm-Teleskop VTT of the Kieler-Institut für Solar Physik, with its headquarters in Freiburg Breisgau, is 54 metres high with 16 metres more submerged below the surface. In the meantime it has been established that, compared with any other solar telescope in the world, this VTT, located on the high plateau La Izana on the Canary Island Tenerife, need no longer remain out of the limelight. Both the sharpness of its image as well as the quality of the spectra it registers are extraordinary. It is to be found on the grounds of the Instituto de Astrofísica Canarias together with a Vacuum-Gregory-Telescope of the University Observatory Göttingen.

Although the VTT had been sponsored by the West German Federal State of Baden-Württemberg to the amount of five million DM, the funds for the solar physicists from Freiburg were so scarce that they were forced to realise their dreams to a great extent themselves. As a result, starting around 1972, the system calculations and the design work were to a large measure carried out by the researchers themselves; many of the fine mechanical parts and precision components were produced in their own institute and larger components were contracted out to a series of "normal" engineering enterprises. The only concept that could actually be borrowed for the new instrument was the dual-mirror system taken from a solar telescope being operated on the Italian island of Capri. The system always directs the light of the wandering sun precisely into the vertically positioned telescope.

This telescope made of steel is 30 metres long, has a diameter of two metres and is completely evacuated for the elimination of otherwise interfering schlieren due to air. At the base it contains the primary mirror of the instrument which is 70 centimetres in diameter and has a focal length of 46 metres. This does not stand in contradiction to the length of the telescope, as the ray path in it is "folded together" by a secondary mirror attached at the top, before the ray reaches the exit window to the laboratory located at ground level and below the telescope. This "tubular vacuum", however, was also the challenge for the researchers to go to the limits of the technically feasible, which had set the optimum mirror diameter at 70 centimetres for this kind of construction. This is because the corresponding entrance window with a diameter of 75 centimetres had to tolerate a pressure of three bar. Thus, with its seven centimetre thick glass disk of the highest optical purity, it is one of the many admirable masterpieces developed by the solar physicists from Freiburg.

The Deutsche Großteleskop (DGT) has since 1989 been on its way to becoming the prototype with a scale of 1:10. In its final form, it will one day have a segmented centre mirror with a diameter of twelve metres and incorporate a multitude of components of novel materials and control technology. Included in these technologies is the revolutionary design of the mirror, which, just like a flight simulator, is to be supported and moved by six computer controlled legs. The Astronomisches Institut of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum in co-operation with Kuppel Industrietechnik and GEL Computer Systems Aachen are working on the prototype of this system. Possibilities are being considered for the realisation of this instrument either as a national or an international facility, whereby the word "international" can only be understood in the context of the international community of astronomy. After all, as was stated in the Denkschrift Astronomie (Memorandum Astronomy) of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Association) from the year 1987, for example, the "high technical level of German industry" would also make it thoroughly feasible for this project to be realised as a national undertaking alone. According to expert opinion, the particular strengths of this instrument would be in its capacity to explore the weakest galaxies at the edges of the cosmos both in visible as well as the infra-red range of light.

## A better crop, quality movies expected

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): Even in the heat of the Oscar race the heavyweight contenders are fading at the box office as Hollywood prepares to loose its 1990 slate of new films.

Fewer movies may be released this year, but prayers are being sent up that they will be better than last year's crop, both at the turnstiles and in quality and content.

Will there be an equivalent to *Batman*, another \$250 million runaway hit in 1990? More than likely.

And it most probably will be Warren Beatty's *Dick Tracy*, based on the old comic strip, filmed in vivid primary colours with Beatty in the title role of the square-jawed cop.

Barely recognizable in heavy makeup will be a supporting cast of oddball villains played by the likes of Dustin Hoffman, James Caan, and Al Pacino.

Not due for release until May or June, *Dick Tracy* promises to be a major blockbuster.

While film buffs await the late spring and summer biggies, there are a flock of new scheduled for February and the March-April thaw.

February, March and April generally are considered the slack box-office season. All the more reason for some studios to rush to release picture that might not compete well with the youth-oriented films of summer.

Among the early releases this season is *Stanley and Iris*, featuring a pair of superstar Oscar-winners, Robert de Niro and Jane Fonda, in a romance between an illiterate labourer and a lonely widow.

Crowned as the most anticipated prepping film is *The Two Jakes* starring Jack Nicholson reprising his roles Jake Gittes, the hard-edged private eye from *Chinatown*.

*The Fourth War*, is John Frankenheimer's story of an American colonel and his Russian counterpart fighting a private war on the West German-Czechoslovak border that threatens to ignite a major international incident.

Bette Midler stars in the title role of *Stella*, a tear-jerking remake of the 1937 Barbara Stanwyck drama *Stella Dallas* — from Disney's touchstone.

Also coming from touchstone is Richard Gere's new romantic drama *Pretty Woman*, co-starring Julia Roberts as a lady of easy virtue who mesmerizes the rich, powerful businessman played by Gere.

*Hard to Kill* offers the latest chop-sockie thriller with Steven Seagal as the indomitable hero and his real-life wife Kelly Le Brock as the Damel in Distress.

Gene Hackman returns to comedy — a long time after his *Superman* appearances — to star in *Loose Cannons* as half of a mismatched cop team with Dan Aykroyd.

Also looking for laughs will be Sally Kellerman and Dave Thomas as Natasha and Boris Badinov in *Boris and Natasha*, based on characters from the old Jay Ward *Rocky and Bullwinkle* cartoons.

Director Bob Rafelson brings us *Mountains of the Moon*, a spellbinding account of the 19th century expedition of Richard Burton and John Hanning Speke to discover the source of the Nile.

Dennis Hopper as a '60s radical and Kiefer Sutherland as an FBI agent star in *Flashback*.

*The Hunt for Red October*, a pre-glasnost thriller of the Soviet Union and United States navies on a deadly search and destroy mission that could lead to nuclear war, based on Tom Clancy's novel and starring Sean Connery.

### 'Love boat' sails again

## Joe is a better looking woman than Hoffman

NEW YORK, (UPI): The most unpredictable thing about the reincarnation of *The Love Boat* is that Joe Regalbuto makes a better looking woman than Dustin Hoffman.

Regalbuto normally appears as Frank Fontana on *Murphy Brown*, but the 6-foot, 180-pounder turns up as a diamond thief in drag for *The Love Boat: A Valentine Voyage*, recently aired on CBS.

CBS also is the network that is bringing back *The Bradys* as a series in its effort to climb out of the ratings cellar. Before you jump to the conclusion that the *Tiffany Network* is tarnishing its image, remember that in its glory days it was the network that gave you *The Beverly Hillsbillies*, *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.* and, more recently, *The Dukes of Hazzard*.

*The Love Boat* has made the voyage from its original network, ABC, to CBS with its crew largely intact — Gavin MacLeod, Bernie Kopell, Ted Lange and Jill Whelan are all there, along with special guest stars Tom Bosley, Julia Duffy, "Rowdy" Roddy Piper, Shanna Reed, Ted Shackelford and Regalbuto.

The show starts off with a diamond heist by Shackelford, Regalbuto and wrestling superstar Piper. Reed drives the getaway car but she has only turned to crime to get enough money to save her mother from eviction from the family home.

Shackelford has a heart of stone and talks in old time movie tough talk. At one point Regalbuto turns to him and says incredulously, "Who taught you to talk, Warner Brothers?"

Regalbuto plays a nice guy Crook, a video game inventor whose partner stole his profits and his wife. He beat up the dirty rat and wound up in jail, where he met Shackelford and was talked into the heist because of his technical skills.

Rowdy Roddy is the gang's muscle, but he turns out to be allergic to almost everything and pathologically seasick in the bargain.

Hackelford refers to him in disgust as "an elephant with gas," and unfortunately rowdy comes through with appropriate sound effects.

The gang has hidden the diamonds in a big heart-shaped box of alentine candy and they plan to smuggle the "ice" out of the country while taking a "love boat" cruise to the Caribbean.

Regalbuto's description has been circulated by the cops after a child he stopped to help while fleeing the scene of the crime describes him to a police artist.

Hackelford wants Rowdy to kill Regalbuto but instead agrees to let him accompany them a drag — complete with high heels.

"It have to be seen with you're going to look good" he snarls.

Regalbuto looks so good that a middle aged passenger starts making advances.

The candy box accidentally falls into MacLeod's hands and, as the thieves try to get it back, it gets passed along to various guest stars, including the enormously pregnant Duffy, who in the script is married to the ship's chef, played by her real-life husband, Jerry Lacy.

How pregnant is she? twelve months, she says.

Bosley is aboard as a police detective who has been suspended from the force after being framed by the syndicate if he can solve the case and catch the diamond thieves, he believes he will be re-instated.

The plot, such as it is, winds its way through the beautiful Caribbean in typical "love boat" style. What you expect is what you get.

## BLONDIE — By Dean Young &amp; Steve Drake



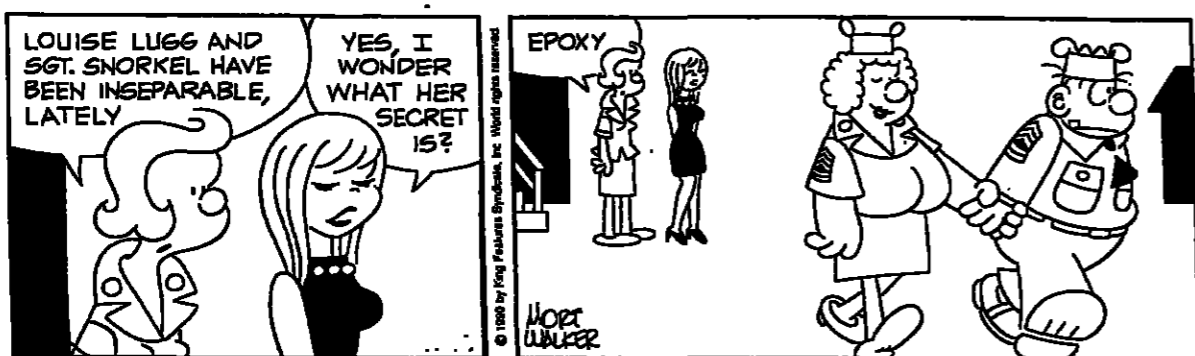
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## AGATHA CRUMM



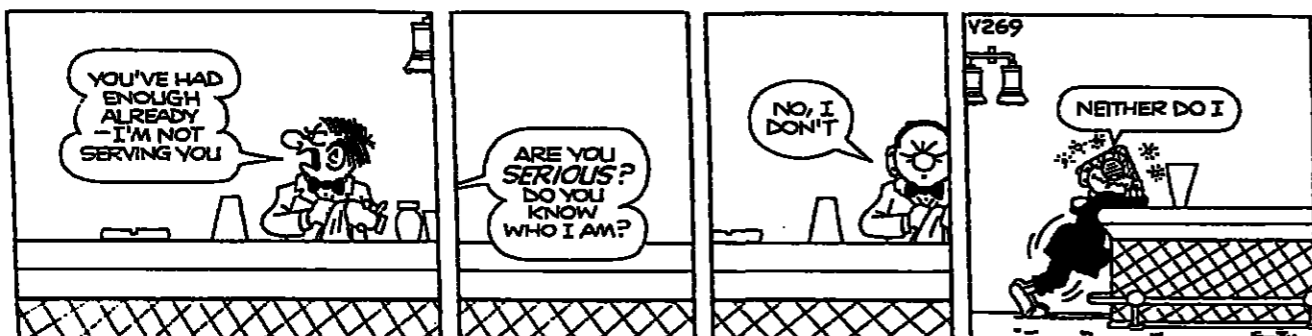
## BEETLE BAILEY



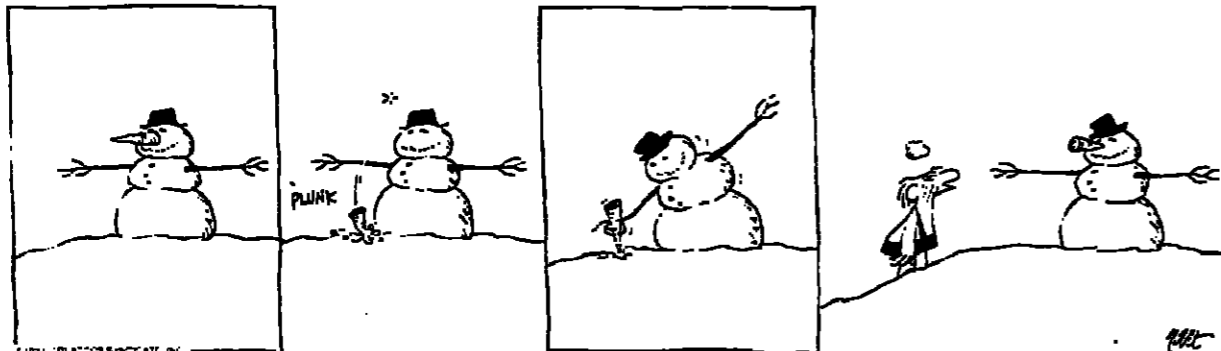
## THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brian Barber &amp; Johnny Hart



## ANDY CAPP



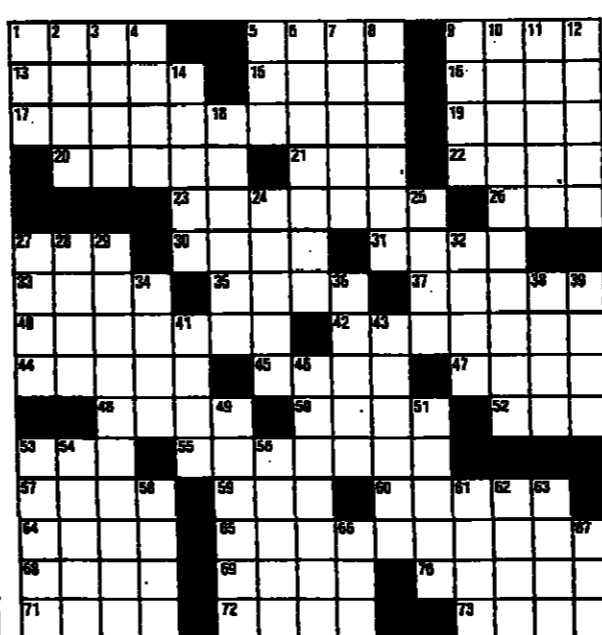
## B.C. — By Johnny Hart



## HE-MAN — By G. Forton &amp; J. Shull



## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

1 In a fog  
5 HST's mate  
9 Role-plays  
13 "To fetch — of water"  
15 Poker pot  
16 Hair line  
17 Stubborn  
19 Portico, in old Greece  
20 Tossed greens  
21 B'n'yn college  
22 Black, to a poet  
23 "— is golden"  
26 Bullish times  
27 Mod's digs  
30 King topplers  
31 Pitcher  
33 Name-dropper  
35 Job  
37 Birdie topper  
40 Entry  
42 Cozy  
44 Wise ones  
45 At that time  
47 Rational  
48 Seabird  
50 Quartet member  
52 Campaigned for office  
53 Non connector  
55 Venerated  
57 Rural byway  
59 Sum total  
60 Extend to  
64 On the briny  
65 Locomotive's forerunner  
68 USSR agency  
69 Not this  
70 Kind of drum  
71 Otherwise  
72 Articulates  
73 Picaresque Circus statue

## DOWN

1 Sci. place  
2 Literary production  
3 Mexican room  
4 Where the proceeds go  
5 Ovine outcry  
6 Intermittent  
7 Stout container  
8 Lead astray  
9 Church area  
10 Second story man  
11 Army unit  
12 Musical and Laurel  
14 Tibet's capital  
18 Decrees  
24 Less than less  
25 Farm females  
27 Greek letters  
28 — Christie  
29 Persistence  
32 Has brunch  
34 — Rabbit  
36 Supplanted  
38 Home of music of Mod  
41 Anglo-Saxon laborer  
43 — plea (go to court)  
46 Corridor  
49 Wrests from  
51 "Waiting for Lefty" author  
53 Having wings  
54 Speech sound  
56 Hello, in Hilo  
58 Facilitate  
61 Skin problem  
62 Single friend  
63 Leander's friend  
66 Parts of dolls  
67 Matter, in law

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

HEMAN SPAT FIAGE  
EMILE PERE ATOP  
RESET IRAN TRUE  
DUTCHUNCLE HIRE  
ESSA TREAT  
MAIGRE LASER  
ALSO TEED ATONE  
SOLOMON ASPIRED  
SPADE TAME MAINE  
ORDER WIENER  
MELEE TEEN  
CORD CHILDSPLAY  
ARAB RISE ORATE  
RIATO ELAIN LINEN  
PLOY ETNA EGAINS

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

## LOOK FOR THE SILVER LINING

Both vulnerable. South deals.

## NORTH

♠ K 4

♥ 8 5 3 2

♦ Q 8 6

♣ A J 7 3

## EAST

♠ 10 8 6 3

♥ 7 6 4

♦ J 10 7 5

♣ 10 9 8 6 2

## SOUTH

♠ A Q J 9 7 5

♥ A K Q

♦ A 4 3 2

♣ Void

## The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass

3 ♦ Pass 3 ♣ Pass

4 ♣ Pass 5 ♣ Pass

5 ♥ Pass 5 NT Pass

6 ♥ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

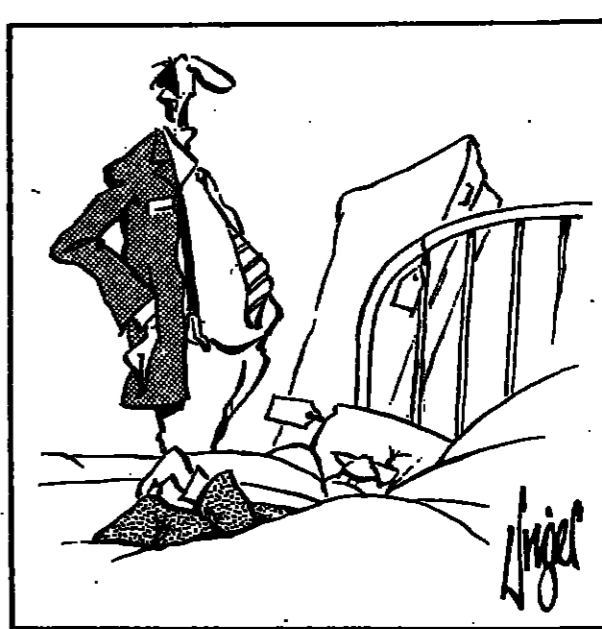
Some extra chances are easy to spot. But once in a while a lucky four-leaf clover lurks where it is difficult to find. If you unearth the winning line here, you can play on our team any time.

North had a difficult response to make to South's demand bid. Everything had a flaw, so North elect-

ed to make a "negative" response first and then drive the hand to slam. When South could not accept North's general grand slam try of five no trump, North wisely settled for the small slam. With the ace of clubs apparently wasted, even that was no bargain.

If you went up with the ace of clubs and drew trumps, you are going down along with most players we know, unless you divined the lie of the diamonds. The secret of the hand comes at the very first trick. Since one diamond discard won't do you any good for the moment, play low from dummy and ruff. Now draw trumps in four rounds, discarding clubs from the table, and cash your high hearts. The gods are with you and the suit divides evenly, setting up a long heart on the board.

To make the contract, all that remains is to get to dummy. Therefore, cash the ace of diamonds and lead a diamond to the queen. Your luck seems to be out when that loses to East's king, but suddenly a sleeping giant awakes. East is down to nothing but clubs, and must lead one to the ace. One losing diamond goes on the ace of clubs and another on the long heart. Those charms have done their work.



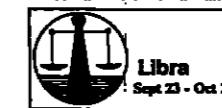
## YOUR STARS

Aries  
March 21 - April 20

You are liable to delay and you might well be too late. However, that does not mean should rush and leave things half finished. Pay a little more attention to the state of your finances. Be moderate.

Cancer  
June 21 - July 20

You are more liable to have a stomach upset and should therefore avoid eating any strange or stale foods. If you show a little more goodwill towards others they will do likewise where you are concerned.

Libra  
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You will have a difficult choice, but if you think hard about it you will make the right one. You should not be late for an appointment, make sure you do not use a device that requires repair. Be polite.

Capricorn  
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

As you do not like to be kept waiting you should not keep others waiting either. If you delay paying you risk getting more deeply into debt, so just don't delay. Do not think you lack willpower; you have it but must determine to use it.

Taurus  
April 21 - May 20

You would be wrong to place too much trust in a person whom you do not know very well. You must not to evade your responsibilities. There will be some complications which you should try to deal with. Be tolerant.

Leo  
July 21 - Aug. 21

You should certainly use new methods but you ought not to make changes merely for the sake of the novelty. You must beware of playing with fire. A friend is relying on you, do not let him down. Be consistent.

Scorpio  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You should attend more to what others are saying than trying to lecture to them. There is still time to do something you have in mind, but do not wait much longer. You would do well to make a few concessions... Be objective.

Aquarius  
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

Do not rely on others to do things for you, instead rely more on yourself. Avoid making a nuisance of yourself, but do not withdraw into yourself either. Take just a little better care of your health. Be thankful.

Gemini  
Mar. 21 - June 20

You are more prone to infection and must do your best to avoid exposing yourself to it. Make sure you leave your partner in no doubt about your love. Before leaving on a visit make sure you have the right address. Be frank.

Virgo  
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

What you had been hoping for not happen and you will have to do the best you can without it. However, things without it will not be as serious as you had imagined. Do not stand so much on your dignity. Be dependable.

Sagittarius  
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

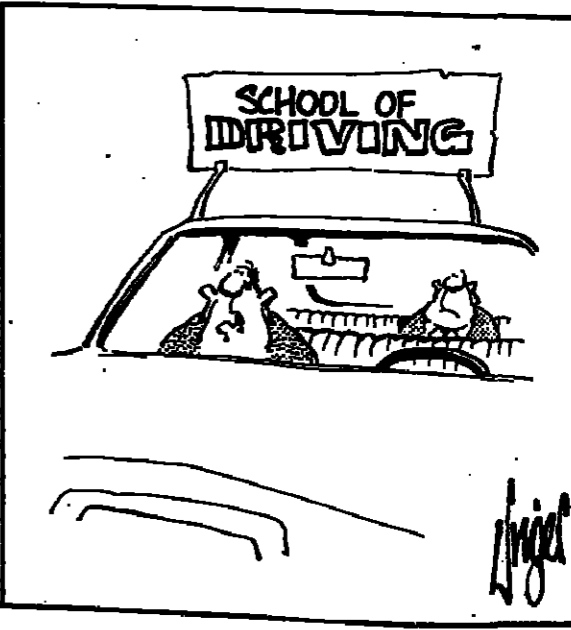
Something you have found hard to learn will now begin to become easier for you. Your lucky numbers are 10 and 35. You are liable to be a little patronizing and should try to refrain. Do not live in the past and avoid nostalgia. Be cordial.

Pisces  
Feb. 20 - March 20

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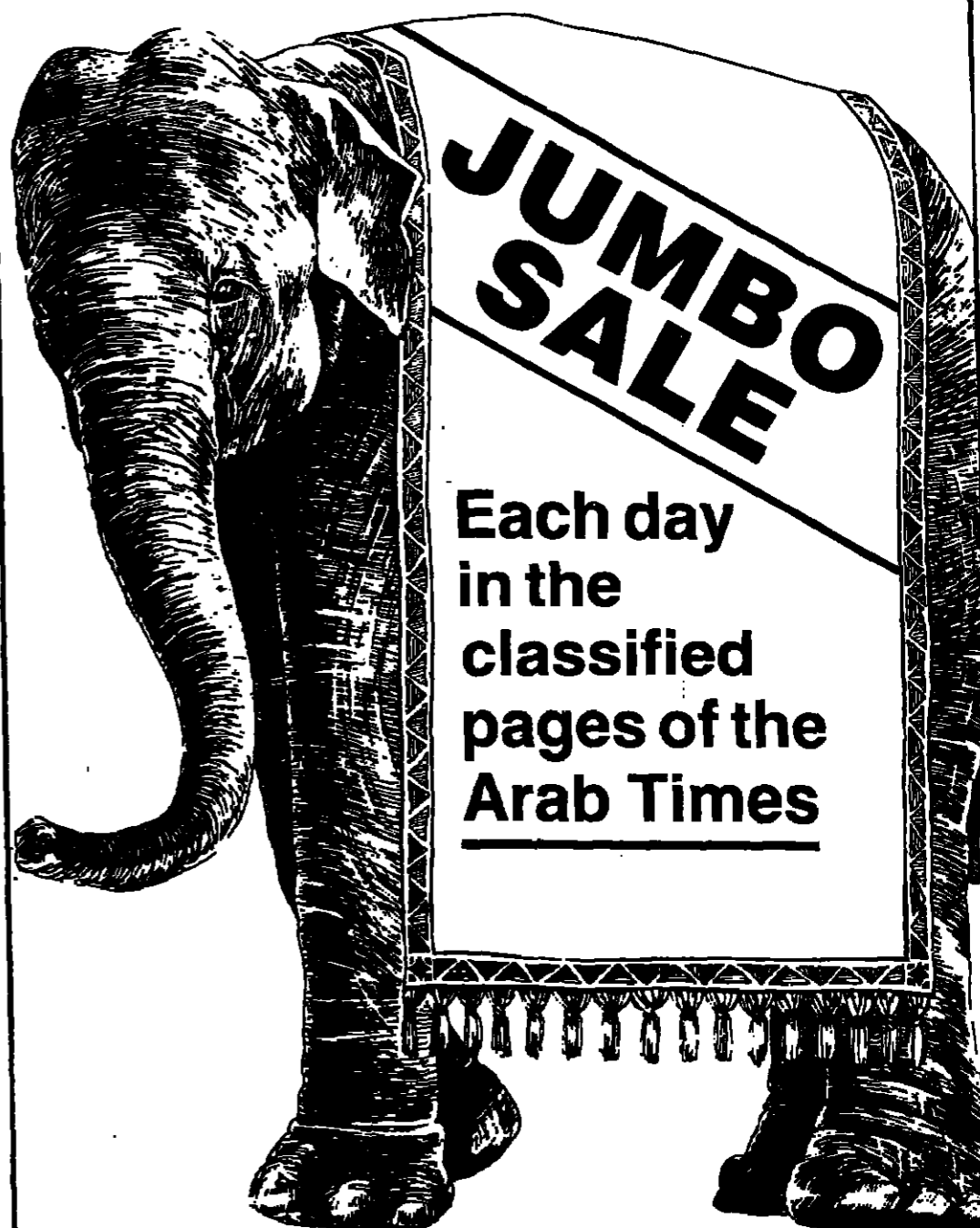
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Deal set for Tyson-Douglas rematch: report

# Douglas is champion: WBC

LAS VEGAS, Feb 13, (AP): Buster Douglas is the heavyweight champion of the world, and as soon as Mike Tyson took a 10-count in the 10th round of their fight in Tokyo.

That's the word from World Boxing Council president Jose Sulaiman, who told the Associated Press late yesterday that he takes responsibility for any misunderstanding concerning Douglas's status as champion.

"On my way back from Japan and stopping in Los Angeles, I contacted the members of the executive council of the WBC in the five continents, and they unanimously demanded from our group to officially announce that we declare, officially, Buster Douglas as the champion of the world of the heavyweight division," Sulaiman said.

The WBC, Sulaiman added, "presented Buster Douglas with the championship belt after the fight, and I believe that's the belt he's been wearing. The WBC never stated that we would not recognise Buster Douglas as champion of the world."

Yet there was a perception that, given the appeal of a long count over Douglas following his eighth-round knockdown, that Douglas might not be certified as champion until a hearing has been held.

"I might have made a personal mistake, which I accept, of withholding the opinion of the result of the fight until I talked with the executive board members, instead of expressing mine immediately," Sulaiman said.

There will be a hearing on Feb 21 at Mexico City, he added, but that will deal with Douglas's right to be the champion, but only the technical matter of whether there was indeed an error in the eighth-round count, Sulaiman said.

"We are also going to review the (judges') scoring," he said, "because two of the scores do not seem to represent the facts of the



James 'Buster' Douglas (right) with his manager John Johnson. (Reuters wirephoto)

fight. I think the scores that were shown to be very close are a little distant from the facts."

Promoter Don King told the Associated Press late yesterday that the appeal doesn't involve who wears the crown.

"I never asked anybody to change the decision," King said. "We just want a first shot at a rematch."

"There is no doubt an error was made," King said. "I have not asked for modification of the rule. It was the referee's error."

King said he was the one who brought the long count to the attention of the boxing officials.

"I would do the same for Buster Douglas," he said. "Am I and Mike Tyson to be punished because the referee made an error? The fact is an error was made."

Douglas arrived home in Columbus yesterday as world heavyweight champion.

A brass band and a crowd of 1,000 chanting "Buster, Buster," cheered the 29-year-old fighter at the airport on his return from Japan. Douglas hoisted his championship belt above his head and told the crowd that

Tyson was history.

Douglas stunned the boxing world on Sunday when he knocked out the previously undefeated Tyson in the 10th round in Japan, but the result was suspended by the World Boxing Association (WBA) and World Boxing Council (WBC) while they investigated whether he benefited from a "long count" after being dropped by Tyson in the eighth round.

The International Boxing Federation declared Douglas its heavyweight champion.

"Columbus is proud of our champ," read one sign in the airport crowd in Columbus, a sports-crazy city of 580,000 which has produced golfing legend Jack Nicklaus and is home to Ohio State University and its successful football team.

"No. 1 and with class," read another.

In the crowd were more than 500 children from the elementary school attended by Douglas's 11-year-old son Lamar.

Douglas was driven by limousine from the plane to an

outdoor gate for the welcome.

As for Tyson, Douglas said: "He was beat and now he's trying to find a way to salvage himself. The only way to salvage himself is with a rematch."

Douglas, however, said his first title defence should be against Evander Holyfield, who had been scheduled for a multi-million dollar title bout against Tyson in June.

"I have to take on the No. 1 contender," Douglas said.

The referee involved in the bout has defended his controversial count.

Octavio Meyran of Mexico told the Televisa private television network yesterday he used his own criteria for starting his count two seconds after the official timekeeper.

"I think that by just looking at the eyes and the reflexes of the boxer you can see how hurt he is in order to deny him the opportunity to continue in the bout or give him (the opportunity to continue) if he is in condition to do so," Meyran said.

"Because of this situation I did not take the count of the Japanese timekeeper. I began my own count."

Meyran had earlier admitted he had made a mistake. According to officials Douglas was down for 12 to 13 seconds when he should have been counted out at 10.

A World Boxing Council vice-president who supervised the heavyweight title fight says Douglas is declared the champion because he won the title in the ring.

Dr Elias Ghanem also said yesterday that the presidents of both the WBC and WBA were told between the eighth and ninth rounds that the referee had made a mistake in the count, but took no action.

"Nobody did anything."

Ghanem said. "The fight went on."

Ghanem said because Douglas went on to knock Tyson out in the fight and declared the winner by the referee, he is the new champion.

"Douglas knocked Tyson out and that's a fact," Ghanem said. "I gave Douglas the belt after the fight and that's it as far as I'm concerned."

Ghanem said he would resist any efforts by the WBC executive committee, of which he is a member, to try and give the title back to Tyson or declare it vacant when it meets in Mexico City on Feb 20.

Another committee member and the WBC's international secretary, Duane Ford, went even further, saying he would resign if the WBC did not recognize Douglas as its champion.

Billionaire developer Donald Trump said he has an agreement with promoter Don King to stage a rematch between the two heavyweights on June 18 in Atlantic City, according to a report in today's New York Times.

"We made a deal a little while ago," the newspaper quoted Trump about another match between Tyson and Douglas.

Trump was not immediately available for comment.

Gary Selesner, an executive at Trump Plaza Hotel in Atlantic City, was quoted as saying: "We are the site of the bout. The only snag is King has to sign Douglas and (Evander) Holyfield."

King is the promoter of both Tyson and Douglas.

Holyfield, the number one contender of all three major governing bodies in boxing, was scheduled to fight Tyson on June 18 in Atlantic City and might accept payment to step aside and wait to fight the winner of Tyson-Douglas II.



Douglas holds up the WBC belt during his homecoming reception. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Maroons, Salcete triumph

GOA MAROONS and Salcete entered the quarterfinals of the Youth Recreation Centre football tournament on Friday.

Maroons, playing against Expatriate Club, which fielded its team for the first time on the Soor grounds displayed courage in the face of opponents with a good track record and had it not been for the missed opportunities by the Expatriate forwards, it would have been an upset result.

As early as the 5th minute, Expats drew first blood when Rajesh beat Maroons' defensive four and passed to Agnello, who with an open goal ahead of him shot out.

The second half began with Chandrakant, the captain of Expatriate, floating the ball into the Maroons goal area where Ronnie, the goalkeeper, failed to collect and all Agnello had to do was tap the ball which he failed again.

Maroons, at this juncture, made a wise substitution of bringing in Domingues who on entering volleyed home a pass from Gilbert off a defensive lapse to take the lead, he increased it soon after off a combined move between Jose and Domingues who passed to Gilbert to shoot home.

Goa Maroons had a number of corner kicks to increase their margin but were prevented by the strong defensive play of Filipe and company.

The highlight of the second match were four goals by Salcete's Agnello in the second half for a 4-0 victory over New Goa.

The pressure exerted by Salcete in the second half was too much for NGOA to contain and they collapsed to well combined moves from Romel, Victor and Agnello, who was always ready to shoot home.

Next Friday's fixtures  
7.00 am - Salcete vs Goan  
Sporting: 8.30 am - Incredible vs Goa Maroons.

## Le Mans out of World Championship

PARIS, Feb 13, (Reuters): The Le Mans 24 hours sports car race, under threat over a safety row, will be held this year but not as a World Championship event.

The International Motor Sports Federation (Fisa) said today it would protect the Le Mans race date in the calendar - June 16 to 17 - providing work to limit speed on the infamous Mulsanne Straight was carried out.

Fisa president Jean-Marie Balestre, who earlier refused to approve the track for international races until organisers apologised for what he said was a campaign of defamation against Fisa, said the annual endurance race would be restored.

He said a World Championship race at the Jarama track in Spain would be put back by one week to July 1 to protect the Le Mans event.

But he added, in a statement, that Le Mans would be a full international event rather than a World Championship race.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Macari fined

LONDON, Feb 13, (Reuters): West Ham manager Lou Macari was fined £1,000 (\$1,700) and censured by the English Football Association (FA) yesterday for breaching FA rules on betting while he was in charge at Second Division Swindon. But Swindon chairman Brian Hillier, charged along with former Scotland international Macari, was banned from football for six months and his club fined £7,500 (\$12,750) for betting against his team in an FA Cup tie two years ago.

### Team title

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Feb 13, (AP): Lightweight Chatchai Sasakul led Thailand to its first team title at the 13th President Cup Amateur Boxing Tournament last night.

### Johnson critical

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida, Feb 13, (UPI): Veteran stock car driver Julius "Slick" Johnson was in critical condition yesterday with injuries suffered in an accident during a race for Automobile Racing Club of America at Daytona International Speedway.

### Pay-per-view TV

NEW YORK, Feb 13, (UPI): NBC will offer more pay-per-view channels that will cost viewers between \$100 and \$150, it was announced yesterday.

### Sports talks

TOKYO, Feb 13, (UPI): North Korea has urged the South to resume sports talks at an early date to discuss formation of a joint delegation to the 1990 Asian Games in Beijing, the official (North) Korean Central News Agency reported.

### Drug test

LONDON, Feb 13, (Reuters): British boxer Derek Williams, who claimed his French opponent used a suspicious substance on his gloves during their European heavyweight title fight, has returned a negative drug test.

### Turkish offer

ANKARA, Feb 13, (Reuters): Turkey has made an offer to Danish national coach Søren Piontke to take over its national squad, a Turkish Football Federation official said yesterday.

### Oudal elected

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Feb 13, (AP): President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday has been elected to his old job as chairman of the Iraqi Soccer Federation, the state-run media reported today.

### UAE draw

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Feb 13, (AP): Abdul-Aziz Mohamed scored a late goal to help the United Arab Emirates salvage a 1-1 draw in an exhibition game against Finland yesterday. Finland led 1-0 at half-time.

### Opens postponed

CARDIFF, Feb 13, (Reuters): The Monaco Open and Swedish Open squash tournaments have been postponed because of sponsorship problems, the International Squash Players' Association (Ispa) said yesterday.

### £1 million earnings

LONDON, Feb 13, (Reuters): Stephen Hendry, a 21-year-old Scot, took his lifetime earnings past £1 million (\$1.7 million) by retaining his Masters snooker title at Wembley on Sunday.

## Sulayem faces tough time

DOHA: As the 1990 FISA Middle East Championship prepares for a roaring start in Qatar tomorrow, a cluster of the region's top drivers are lining up to make life difficult for reigning champion Mohamed bin Sulayem.

Despite the withdrawal of local favourite Abbas Al Mosawi and the UAE's Mohammed Omar, with both drivers running out of time to prepare their cars, the two-day NBSK Qatar International Rally still boasts a field packed with experienced and talented competitors.

The men who are expected to provide the biggest threat to Winston Toyota star Sulayem's bid for a 17th international victory are the UAE's Suhail Khalifa, who will ignore his doctor's advice to take part in a Mitsubishi Galant VR4, and the irrepressible Lebanese driver Michel Saleh.

"There is no doubt that Suhail is an excellent driver, but his car has not been proven in the Middle East," said Sulayem, who will be partnered by Irish navigator Ronan Morgan in his Winston Toyota Celica GT-4. "His chances will depend on whether or not the car can perform well over two days."

Among the Qatari drivers hoping



Bin Sulayem: looks over the rally route

ing to use a little local knowledge to get the better of Sulayem are Ghaith Al Kuwari in a Peugeot 205 GTI, the up-and-coming Nasir Al Atbya in a Toyota Celica and Fahed Bin Mubarak in Sulayem's old Group B Toyota Celica Turbo. Abdul Wahid Al Haye, Bin Mubarak's co-driver, said: "This is only the second international rally that we have competed in together."

We came fifth in Dubai back in December and we hope to do the same, if not better, this time."

The 687 km rally, which includes 371 km of special stages, gets underway from the Corniche at Doha at 12 noon tomorrow with 36 starters. The first car is expected to reach the finish at Doha's Ramada Hotel at 5:30 pm on Friday.

## Brothers sail past Skylark

BROTHERS Sporting defeated Skylark by three wickets in a Friday League match, organised by GCL, at the EPI ground on Friday.

After winning the toss, Brothers opted to field and Skylark could only muster 94 runs for the loss of nine wickets in the 22 allotted overs.

Skylark had been given a good start by openers Merwin (29) and Walters (23), who put on 53 runs in seven overs for the first wicket but the latter batsmen failed to score.

For Brothers, Yogesh Patel took five wickets while Kanti Patel took three and Solman one.

In Reply, Brothers scored 95 for seven in 20 overs.

Brothers started badly losing their opener Sadeq with the score only 18 in seven overs. Asghar joined Montu and took the score to 42 before the latter was out for 14.

Ruhit came in and hit a quick 66 and Asghar chipped in with 38 to take their team to victory.

The game was interrupted three times by rain, causing Brothers to quicken the pace of the game.

## BKME brush aside Crescent to reach Cup final

Super Royal, PCCC, Lucky Stars and Awami win



Ashfaq: hit 67

overs changed the complexion of the game.

Salim was hit for 54 off 5 overs while Ronny Jr conceded 27 in 2 overs. Crescent looked to be in the driver's seat with 87 in 10 overs. However, Ishfaq was run out to a direct throw from James and when Tariq, who survived a few chances, finally holed out to Rammohan for 58 off James, Crescent's luck ran out.

Tariq in his innings of 58 had 2 sixes and 8 fours. The latter batsmen just couldn't keep up the fight. Zagar was caught at the wicket by Ashfaq for 1. Arshad followed soon caught by Ronnie Sr off Ronny Jr for 10. However, Ishfaq and Tariq then took the fight and in the next few



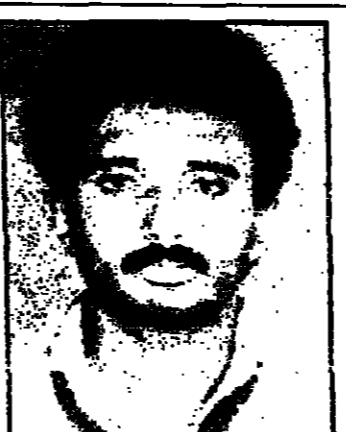
Feroz: six wickets

Farhat off Ayoub then bowled Mehboob before the rain could come on, to ease BKME's anxiety and help them to the finals where they play Lanka Colts on March 9.

For BKME Ayoub was the most successful bowler claiming 4 wickets while conceding 16 runs, while James and Ronny Jr claimed 2 wickets each for 23 and 27 runs respectively.

Super Royal moved into the semifinals of the Mushtaq Memorial Trophy with a seven-wicket victory over White Eleven at the Airport Ground earlier this week.

Super Royal put White Eleven into bat after winning the toss. White Eleven, however, could



Naeem: four wickets

only manage to score 118. Manoj was the top scorer with 59 while Anwar hit 25 and Salim 11.

For Super Royal, Feroz Akbar took six wickets, including a hat-trick.

The White Eleven bowlers also found themselves at the receiving end when they were thrashed by the Super Royal batsmen to all parts of the ground.

Rayees was the top scorer with 44 while Afzal hit 25, Riaz 11, Feroz 11 and Shahid 10 as Super Royal went past the target for the loss of three wickets. Feroz was named Man of the Match.

PCCC beat Failaka Cricket Club in a friendly cricket match at the Failaka Ground on



Tahir: hit 63

Friday.

PCCC opened their innings through Abbas and Shaheer after winning the toss and opting to bat. Shaheer was out for 28 but Abbas hammered all the Failaka bowlers and hit 62, including seven boundaries, as PCCC put on 204 in their allotted overs.

Saeed with 27 and Naeem Mohammed with an unbeaten 32 were the other batsmen to do well. For Failaka, Naeem took three wickets while Salim got two and Waheed, Shahid and Tahir one each.

Failaka failed to get on-top of the PCCC bowling and when rain stopped play at the end of the 15th over they had scored only 62 runs. PCCC were

declared winners as they had been better placed at the same stage of their innings.

Waheed was the only Failaka batsman to reach the double figures with 27. Naeem Mohammed was the most successful bowler for PCCC with four wickets for 13 runs in five overs. Naeem also claimed a hat-trick.

Shakoor took two wickets while Shaheer and Shaikat got one each, Naeem Mohammed was named Man of the Match.

Lucky Stars scored an eight-wicket victory over Deccan Blue earlier this week. Deccan Blue batted first but were all out for only 99. Tariq took four wickets for 2 runs while Tahir got two for 21. Mir Ifthikhar two for 20 and Anwar Khan one for 19.

Lucky Stars lost their first wicket in the first over but Tahir made sure of their victory by hitting 63. Abid gave Tahir some good support with 27. Tahir was named Man of the Match.

Awami beat Trishul by three wickets. Batting first, Trishul scored 124 in 22 overs. Rudy played well for his 37. For Awami, Tabussam took three wickets while Khalid got two and Majid, Azim and Sikander one each.

In reply, Awami reached the target for the loss of seven wickets. Khalid scored 23, Salim 20 and Imtiaz 20. For Trishul, Francis, Benjamin and Pervez took two wickets each.

## Protesters force rebel tour to be curtailed

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 13, (Reuters) Anti-tour demonstrations have forced a rebel England cricket tour of South Africa to be severely curtailed and a five-day match to be cancelled.

A South African Cricket Union spokesman said today the five-day match due to start in Cape Town on Friday had been cancelled and Mike Gatting's rebel England squad would now play just four one-day matches against South Africa.

Under the original programme they were scheduled to play six one-day matches against South Africa and one against the Transvaal province team.

The spokesman said the decision followed a series of meetings between the SAU and the National Sports Congress (NSC), one of the main organisations opposing the boycott-breaking tour.

"There have been a number of meetings between the NSC and the tour over the last few days finally ending in a long meeting last night," the spokesman said.

The changes keep the rebel team away from violence-plagued areas in Cape Province and away from Cape Town itself where a suspect mine exploded at the Newlands Cricket Ground yesterday.

The tour has been marked by several violent clashes between police and anti-tour protesters including one at the airport on the day of the team's arrival.

Each of the four matches played so far has attracted crowds of chanting demonstrators and in Pietermaritzburg 11 days ago about 4,000 gathered outside the ground and came and stones were thrown at Gatting and local cricket chief Ali Bacher.

Sources close to the SAU said NSC leader Kishor Naidoo had agreed to four one-day matches taking place to allow the SAU a chance of receiving some of the cost of mounting the tour.

The NSC said it would call off its protest action against the remaining matches. "The National Sports Congress has agreed to withdraw protest action at these matches," Naidoo said.

"Whilst the National Sports Congress considers SAU's decision as a step in the right direction towards the ultimate unity and development of all cricketers, both black and white, it regrets that the tour was started in the first place and against all advice," he said.

The decision to avoid Cape Town was made because of similar scenes in moderation could be reached with another anti-tour body, the South African Council of Sport (Saco), which is strong in the area.

While the row over Gatting's rebel tour simmers on, one of South Africa's greatest cricketers, who 19 years ago led a team in protest, said he believed it was right to go ahead with it.

Graeme Pollock, who for 24 years dominated the South African cricket scene with his peerless batting, said the organisers of the game in the republic were genuinely attempting to break down racial barriers.

"I don't think this tour will set back any of that and our young cricketers do need the challenge of top class opposition," he said.

Pollock, who retired from the game three years ago, led a walk-off of the country's top players during a match in 1971 in protest at the country's harsh race laws.

"It was just after the tour by England was cancelled over the D'Oliviera affair," he told Reuters.

"I was captaining a rest of South Africa side against Transvaal, the champion province, and we all agreed that some kind of public demonstration of our feelings should be made."

"We were fielding and after one ball had been bowled we all walked off and issued a statement declaring the fact South Africa had refused to allow in a side containing Basil D'Oliviera because he was coloured."

## Imran and Wasim shine Pakistan blast Aussies

SYDNEY, Feb 13, (Reuters) A 56-run partnership in 51 balls between Imran Khan and Wasim Akram earned Pakistan a thrilling five-wicket victory against Australia in a World Series Cup day-night match today.

The two all-rounders hammered the bowlers in the final nine overs to lift their side to 167 for five in reply to Australia's total of 165 for eight with nine balls of their allotted 50 overs to spare.

Australia's bowlers made a tremendous effort to defend the small target of 3.32 runs per over and when Salim Malik was fifth man out for a duck with the score on 111 in the 40th over the home side appeared to have a good chance of victory.

But that was soon killed off by Man of the Match Imran, who finished unbeaten on 56, and Wasim, who cracked five fours on his way to 34 not out.

Javed Miandad, who scored 29, shared in a 58-run fourth wicket stand with captain Imran to help set up Pakistan's late run chase.

Imran and Wasim, who both made centuries in a heroic sixth wicket stand in the drawn second Test last month, also performed brilliantly with the ball in Australia's innings.

Unlike in Brisbane last Sunday when the touring side were hammered for 300 runs from 50 overs, the bowlers were in command for most of the innings.



Imran Khan

Australia were frustrated more by accurate bowling than by a pitch affected by recent heavy rain and could set Pakistan a target of only 3.32 runs per over to win after hitting just four boundaries.

Wasim led the assault with the magnificent figures of two for 21 from 10 overs. His opening six over spell from the Paddington end conceded just eight runs and included the wicket of Tom

Moody in his third over.

Left arm orthodox spinner Nadeem Ghauri also held the batsmen down in a fine display of control, allowing just 23 runs from his 10 overs while operating in tandem with Imran.

After Moody's dismissal Mark Taylor was joined by Dean Jones and the pair accelerated the run rate, despite the fact Jones was suffering from a stomach virus which was also responsible for Allan Border batting down the order at number six.

Taylor and Jones took Australia past 50 in 17.3 overs, and brought up a 60-run stand for the second wicket in 107 balls.

But when Taylor hit over Imran's third ball to be bowled for 23, the Australian innings slowed. After 30 overs Australia were 85 for two and in the next 10 overs only 27 runs were added.

Jones brought up his 50 in 79 balls but added only four more before he was run out, being sent back by Steve Waugh after pushing to Ehsan Ahmed at short cover.

The slow scoring continued before Border and Ian Healy advanced the score to 163 for five. Healy was bowled by Wasim for 11 in the 48th over, while Border (22) and Craig McDermott (nought) were run out in the final over.

Australia are still well clear at the top of the World Series Cup table with 10 points, while Pakistan's victory virtually sealed

them a place in the finals against the hosts at the expense of Sri Lanka, the third country competing in the tournament.

**Scoreboard**

AUSTRALIA  
M. Taylor b Imran ..... 23  
T. Moody b Wasim ..... 3  
D. Jones run out ..... 54  
S. Waugh c Javed b Shoaib ..... 28  
S. O'Donnell b Imran ..... 3  
A. Border run out ..... 22  
I. Healy b Wasim ..... 11  
P. Taylor not out ..... 0  
C. McDermott run out ..... 0  
Extras (lb-13 nb-2 w-3) ..... 18  
Total (for eight wickets) ..... 165 - 50 overs

Fall of wickets: 1-82-88.3-110.4-123.5-125.6-153.7-164.8-165.

Did not bat: C. Rackemann, T. Alderman

Bowling: Wasim Akram 10-2-21-2 (2w), Waqar Younis 10-1-36-0 (2nb), Aaqib Javed 7-0-28-0, Nadeem Ghauri 10-1-23-0, Imran Khan 10-1-30-2, Shoaib Mohammad 3-3-14-1.

PAKISTAN  
Saeed Anwar b McDermott ..... 27  
Shoaib Mohammad c McDermott b O'Donnell ..... 9  
Ehsan Ahmed b O'Donnell ..... 3  
Javed Miandad lbw b Alderman ..... 29  
Imran Khan not out ..... 56  
Salim Malik c Border b P. Taylor ..... 0  
Wasim Akram not out ..... 34  
Extras (lb-4 nb-4 w-2) ..... 10  
Total (five wickets, 48.3 overs) ..... 167  
Fall of wickets: 1-32.2-39.3-43.4-100.5-111.

Bowling: Alderman 10-2-29-1, McDermott 8-1-35-1 (1nb), O'Donnell 9.3-1-32-2 (1nb), Rackemann 8-1-24-0, P. Taylor 9-1-26-1, Border 4-0-14-0.

Result: Pakistan won by five wickets.

Man of the Match: Imran Khan.

## India-New Zealand Test ends in draw

NAPIER, New Zealand, Feb 13, (Reuters) New Zealand's second Test against India ended in a damp draw today, robbing two players of the chance of entering the record books.

Heavy overnight rain and bad light at Napier's McLean park ended the match without a single ball being bowled on the final day, costing New Zealand captain John Wright the chance of scoring a landmark 4,000 runs in Test cricket.

The match also saw India's Sachin Tendulkar frustrated in his attempt to become the youngest batsman to score a Test century.

Wright, in his 65th Test, is just 30 runs short of becoming the first New Zealander to reach the 4,000-run milestone. The left-hander was unbeaten overnight on 113.

Wright had shared a record New Zealand opening stand against India of 149 with Trevor Franklin, who made 50. It was Wright's ninth Test century, his third against India and his second in consecutive innings.

The partnership battered by New Zealand's previous best opening against India, by Graham Dowling and Bruce Murray at Christchurch in 1968.

Sixteen-year-old Tendulkar fell 12 runs short of ousting Pakistan's Mushtaq Mohammad from the record books as the youngest Test century-scorer.

The Pakistani was 17 when he made his maiden Test hundred against India in 1961.

Both Wright and Tendulkar have one more Test to reach their goals. The last match of the series begins in Auckland on February 21.

The first day of the Napier Test was also washed out and the full allotment of 90 overs was bowled on only one of the three days of play.

New Zealand were 178 for one overnight in reply to India's first innings score of 358 for nine declared.

But even without the weather a result was always in doubt as the bare pitch never gave the bowlers any help and played as if it would last forever.

The draw leaves New Zealand one up in the series after taking the first Test in Christchurch by 10 wickets.

**Scoreboard**

INDIA first innings  
W. Raman lbw b Hadlee ..... 0  
M. Prabhakar c Smith b Hadlee ..... 95  
S. Manjrekar c Smith b Morrison ..... 42  
M. Azharuddin b Morrison ..... 33  
D. Vengsarkar c Smith b Morrison ..... 0  
S. Tendulkar c Wright b Morrison ..... 88  
Kapil Dev lbw b Hadlee ..... 4  
K. More c Franklin b Snedden ..... 73  
S. Venkatesh Raju not out ..... 3  
A. Wasson b Morrison ..... 0  
N. Hirwani not out ..... 1

NEW ZEALAND first innings  
T. Franklin c Kapil Dev b Wasson 50  
J. Wright not out 113  
A. Jones not out 4  
Extras (lb-5, lb-3, nb-2, w-1) 11  
Total (for one wicket) 178  
Fall of wicket: 1-149.  
Bowling: Prabhakar 13-3-25-0, Kapil Dev 14-4-30-0, Wasson 15-2-48-1, Hirwani 18-7-40-0, Venkatesh Raju 11-4-27-0.



Sachin Tendulkar

Extras (lb-5, nb-14) ..... 19  
Total (for nine declared) ..... 358  
Fall of wickets: 1-0-92.3-150.4-152.5-210.6-218.7-346.8-356.9-356.

## Lady Tossers held to draw

WEEK 16 of the Mouchel Wednesday Ladies Darts League season continued in much the same vein as other recent weeks, with no quarter being given by any of the top teams.

The most crucial game of the week saw joint leaders Lady Tossers being held 2-2 by Bulls Hitters, in a game that neither could afford to lose.

Even so, with Bulls Hitters now 4 points off the pace, their chance of winning the title would appear to have gone for another year. Zero Down's game with Avengers was very close, but the League leaders took both points by virtue of their superior finishing in the 301 legs.

Although Avengers' Suzanne Jenkins did get her third trophy win, she was beaten by the Bulls Hitters.

Barbed comments remain one point behind in third having beaten Eintasia, where Jenny Thomson also had a third high score, and they should be joined by Nibblers assuming that they win their game in hand. This week's splendid win at Hunting Bees was earned with another excellent display from Ruth Gollidge.

Another 3 bulls shot by Tossers' Dawn O'Dowd has moved her one

score clear of Mary Slattery (MEE) and Evelina Breznik (Filina) in the Ladies High Scores Trophy.

In the Mouchel Men's League, both Soweto Slingers and Has Bees must now be confident of finishing as the top two teams, both winning their most recent matches, as three of their main rivals all dropped points. The big game between Chucks and Mugs Away ending at 3-3, as did the Bulls Hitters' Shower of Tossers fixture, where, having taken a 3-0 lead, the Tossers must feel as though they should have made more of their opportunity. Wearapeepel did maintain their challenge though, by beating Fintasia, but their day of reckoning is today when they travel south to face HAS-BEES.

Bulls Hitters journey to Soweto Slingers must end in a victory for them if they are to have any realistic chance this season, as only two points separate the four teams still vying for third place honours.

At the other end of the table, the late season activity in attempting to avoid the wooden spoon continues. Jabrija Grabbers, No Hoppers and Fintasia Flyers seem to be occupying last place on some kind of rota basis

- this week being No Hoppers turn, due to the Flyers second draw of their current campaign in the game against Absolutely.

Allan Anderson's 140 in 3 high scores eclipsed Paulist past Grabbers as Terry McGuire also had 3 100's in losing to Anderson. Dinar Soarers also ensured their safety with an impressive 5-1 win over Blackouts, where there were 140's for Cliff Lindley and John Scott. Two other Trophy winners were Bob Cole and Alex Gutting on a generally low scoring day. Nobby Burton, John Morris and Ian Thomas all had 3 high scores, the latter two joining John Watson as the only 3 still undefeated Wednesday League players.

This week's results - were as follows, with Ladies score in brackets:-

Has Bees	(0)4	Noblers	(0)2
Wearapeepel	(3)4	Fintasia	(1)2
Chucks	(2)3	Mugs Away	(2)3
Equallies	(1)4	No Hoppers	(2)3
Zero-11	(0)0	S. Slingers	(1)6
Bulls Hitters	(2)3	S. of Tossers	(2)3
Four Play	(2)1	MEE	(2)5
D. Soarers	(4)5	Blackouts	(0)1
Paulist	(3)4	I. Brabbers	(1)2
Fintasia Flyers	(4)3	Absolutely	(4)3
Chucks	(2)4	Dinar Soarers	(2)2

## Fitzgerald stuns Masur in opener

TORONTO, Feb 13, (Reuters) Australian John Fitzgerald gave his confidence a real boost as he upset 13th-seeded countryman Wally Masur 4-6 7-6 6-3 yesterday in the first round of the \$1.2 million Skydome World Tennis Tournament.

Masur recently led the Australian Davis Cup squad to a 3-2 victory over a favoured French team. He posted impressive five-set victories over both Yannick Noah and Henri Leconte.

Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands was leading Patrick McEnroe 6-3 4-1 when McEnroe retired with a pulled stomach muscle.

Robert Seguso was trailing Mexican Jorge Lozano 7-6 (7-2) 1-0 when chronic knee problems forced him out of the match.

And American Jim Pugh was ahead 6-2 2-0 when Britain's Jeremy Bates retired because of the flu.

Tenth seed Jaime Yzaga of Peru was the only seeded player to

advance in the opening day of play. Yzaga reached the second round with a 6-4 6-1 win over Nicolas Kroon of Sweden.

Other upsets were achieved by Leif Shiras, a 6-3 7-5 winner over fellow-American 14-seed Scott Davis (US); Milan Sevcik of Czechoslovakia, who beat 16th seed Jean-Francois Yzang 3-6 7-6 (7-2) 7-5; and Sweden's Peter Lundgren, a 6-3 6-7 (3-7) 6-2 winner over 11th-seeded American David Wheaton.

## Seles upset in Chicago tournament

CHICAGO, Feb 13, (Reuters) Veteran Ros Fairbank's prayers were answered yesterday when she upset rusty 16-year-old Monica Seles in the opening round of the \$500,000 Chicago women's tennis tournament.

Fairbank, 29, ousted the fourth-seeded Yugoslav 6-3 6-4 in a result that surprised even the South Africa.

"I had lost all my rhythm. I practiced here for three days and just got worse. I was ready to give up tennis all together," Fairbank said.

Second seed Zina Garrison beat fellow-American Mary Pierce 6-4 6-4, fifth-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria defeated American Louise Allen 6-3 6-3, and eighth seed Pam Shriver beat fellow-American Ann Henricksson 6-2 6-2.

Six of the top eight ranked women are in the tournament. Missing are world number one Steffi Graf, out with a thumb injury incurred while fleeing photographers as she skied in the Swiss Alps, and third-ranked Sabatini, who is resting a sore ankle.

Tournament public relations director Nancy Bolger told reporters: "Graf will not have to have surgery. But she will not be able to hit a tennis ball for six weeks."

After which Shriver quipped: "That's the longest rest Steffi will have since she was two years old."

## Scots anxious to improve on past form

LONDON, Feb 13, (Reuters) Scotland, having overcome their nerves to qualify for a fifth successive World Cup finals appearance, will be anxious to improve on their past form when they travel to Italy in June.

For in each of the finals series in 1974, 1978, 1982 and 1986, the Scots have failed to live up to the hopes of their 'tartan army' of fans and have been eliminated in the first round.

Indeed, they have never gone beyond the opening round in six appearances in the finals since they first qualified in 1954.

This time, after qualifying second behind Yugoslavia in a group which also contained France, Norway and Cyprus, Scotland and their supporters will at least travel with their hopes tempered by the knowledge that they will be in one of the toughest opening sections.

In Group C in Turin and Genoa, Scotland will be facing three-times winners Brazil, Sweden and Costa Rica. It will be the third time in five series of World Cup finals they have met the Brazilians in the opening round.

"It is a glamorous group. It always is when you are picked with the Brazilians," said team manager Andy Roxburgh. "But it is not an easy one and we shall have our work cut out to qualify from it."

Roxburgh, a quiet and studious coach whose playing career was spent with some of Scotland's less distinguished clubs in the lower divisions, followed Alex Ferguson in charge after the 1986 finals in Mexico.

He recognised his task was to try and utilise the Scots' natural skill, energy and enthusiasm in a tactical framework which would prove sound in international soccer and provide some form of consistency.

By the end of the qualifying programme at the end of last year, however, Scotland had won nine, drawn 11 and lost seven of 27 matches under his control. And consistency looked to be as elusive as ever, whoever was selected.

This was most vividly reflected in their qualifying programme. After wins over Norway, Cyprus (twice) and France and a draw at home to Yugoslavia, it looked a



Mo Johnston: Scotland's top marksman

formality that they would qualify with three matches remaining.

Defeats in Yugoslavia and France, however, left everything hanging on their final home tie against Norway, which ended in a cliff-hanging 1-1 draw, as Scotland scrambled into the finals.

Injuries to key players have not assisted Roxburgh whose squad, unlike most previous Scotland squads, is conspicuously lacking in stars.

Whereas in the past, the Scots could always draw upon the inspiration of such men as Denis Law, Willie Johnston, Graeme Souness or Kenny Dalglish, they now rely upon their collective football and team spirit.

Goalkeeper Jim Leighton, who has endured a difficult season in England with Manchester United fighting relegation, is one of a core of experienced men who played in Mexico.

He, Richard Gough of Glasgow Rangers, who has been injured virtually all season, Willie Miller of Aberdeen and Roy Aitken of Newcastle will be the foundations of Scotland's defence, but none of them have been playing at the top of their form.

Another defender, Gary Gillespie, of whom much was hoped, has also been injured for much of the season and the team as a whole has been forced to rely greatly on the goalscoring talents of top striker Mo Johnston.

Johnston, who last year became the first Catholic player to sign for the previously Protestant-only Glasgow Rangers,

scored six goals in the qualifying programme and, after 30 international appearances, had hit 12 goals to establish himself as Scotland's top modern marksman.

Johnston is likely to be partnered in attack by Rangers team mate Ally McCoist with midfield support from the mercurial Paul McStay, Jim Beattie and the versatile Steve Nicol.

Nicol, one of the most impressive and consistent players in Liverpool's championship-chasing team, will be at his peak in Italy and could prove, at 28, to be the Scots' outstanding all-round player.

Roxburgh has worked hard and in great detail to ensure the Scots are ideally prepared for the tournament. Immediately after the draw last December he flew to Genoa to finalise hotel and training arrangements and this week he and the squad flew to their Italian base for a three-day familiarisation visit.

He revealed how important he felt the preparations were to Scotland's campaign when he issued a stern warning to all his players about treating them lightly and the warm-up matches lightly.

"Turn up for the warm-up games or forget about Italy," he said. "No-one is indispensable and if they do not want to come then we will look elsewhere."

Roxburgh has arranged four warm-up fixtures in Glasgow before the squad departs for Italy. Scotland meet Argentina on March 28, East Germany on April 25, Egypt on May 16 and Poland on May 19.

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**CONTEST QUESTIONS:**

- When was the first Gulf Cup Tournament held?  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name the player who scored the most goals in a single tournament?
- Who will win the Gulf Cup Tournament held in Kuwait 1990?

**Competition coupon**

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## Starlite qualify for final

TWO matches were played in the 'Gulf Bank Thursday League' at Ahmadi. Starlite scored a convincing victory over Unity, winning the battle in the 20th over by being ahead on average by 18 runs. Prince, playing their last match, overcame Morning Star by 35 runs.

Starlite opened with Badar and Iqbal Jr, who put on 31 in only 4 overs before Badar was caught behind by new keeper Raju off Irfan for 11. Maqsood joined forces with Iqbal Jr and these two plundered the bowling at will, scoring at almost 9 per over.

Iqbal, deceived by a lifting delivery, offered a tentative shot only to see Irfan take a splendid catch off his own bowling making Starlite 41 for 2 in 6 overs. Maqsood went on to register a solid innings of 41 runs and was responsible for putting Starlite on a strong footing.

Qayyum (32) and Mohammed Ali (35), with 2 lusty sixes, took Starlite to a commanding score of 166 for 5 in just 21 overs. Raju had three victims in the match, where as Irfan (2) Chris, Robin, and Merwyn had a wicket each.

Abuzar and Merwyn began the proceedings for Unity. With only 4 on the board, Merwyn was well taken by Qayyum off Eijaz for 1. Bittu and Sarfaraz were also dismissed cheaply and Unity were in trouble at 17 for 3. Abuzar and Babar took up the challenge. With nothing to lose, they went for the bowling and put on a fruitful partnership yielding 41 runs before Abuzar departed, bowled by Badar for an entertaining 30.

Chris joined Babar and knowing that Unity had already qualified, played with determination and produced runs that ran neck to neck with the Starlite average. Babar holed 2 sixes, and in trying to hit Qayyum was smartly stumped by Perwaiz for a strokeful 53.

Chris, trying to accelerate the scoring, holed out to Qayyum off Zia for 21. Qayyum, coming on, accounted for Irfan and Robin and the fight fizzled out of Unity. At the end of the 20th over Starlite were leading by 18 runs giving them a good victory and entry into the finals.

Qayyum was outstanding in the field, taking 4 wickets and 2 excellent catches.

## Pakistan move two points clear

# Aussies, Dutch triumph

LAHORE, Pakistan, Feb 13, (Reuters): Australia began the defence of their World Cup hockey title with a 4-1 victory over Argentina today while the Netherlands won their second successive match of the tournament.

The Netherlands, who defeated France 2-1 on the opening day, beat the Soviet Union 5-2 thanks to a hat-trick from Floris-Jan Bovelander to lead Group A from Australia.

In Group B, West Germany beat Canada 4-1.

Australia also proved adept at scoring from corners, but it had to overcome a surprisingly skilful and resilient Argentinian side in its first pool A game.

Michael York scored twice from corners and Greg Corbett's flick from a corner switch accounted for Australia's third.

Australia is one of the favourites for the tournament, despite fielding a relatively inexperienced side, but it did not really stamp its authority on the game until the second half.

Graham Reid scored Australia's fourth goal with a deflection past Otto Schmitt in the Argentinian goal, but Argentina replied when Martin Sordelli reacted quickly when a short corner drive rebounded off Australian keeper Lachlan Dreher's pads.

Bovelander scored all three Dutch goals in a see-saw first half in which the Soviet Union equalised twice through Viktor Deputatov and Berik Seksembaev.

The Dutch were more dominant in the second half and added goals through a penalty by Marc Delissen and Tom van't Heek.

Soviet coach Boris Kozlovskiy complained about the umpiring afterwards, saying he thought the ball did not cross the line for one of the Dutch goals and disputed their penalty.



Australia's Deane Andrew swings at the ball after his initial shot was blocked by Argentina's goalkeeper during today's match. (Reuters wirephoto)

Olympic silver medalists West Germany, who have won all seven matches they have played against Canada, struggled to take control of the game in the first half.

They led 2-1 at the break through goals from Frederick Ness and Stefan Blocher after Tamke Lee had equalised for Canada with a lob over the goalkeeper.

Andreas Mollandin put the Germans further ahead after 52 minutes and Blocher scored his second five minutes from time.

Pakistan moved two points clear at the top of Group B with their second victory through they struggled to beat unfancied Ireland 2-1.

The Irish played a canny game,

giving the Pakistanis few opportunities to repeat the fine attacking they displayed in beating Spain 6-3 yesterday.

Ireland were swamped 9-0 in the only previous match between the two countries.

Khalid Bashir gave Pakistan the lead from their second penalty corner after 15 minutes. Ireland equalised through Jimmy Kirkwood, a Seoul gold medalist with Britain, who scored from a 21st minute penalty corner.

Twelve minutes later Pakistan scored what proved to be the winning goal with a beautifully executed penalty corner. The ball was struck forward to Tahir Zaman who deflected it home.

Ireland brought on two attackers late in the game and

they had two good chances but could not get the equaliser.

Cees Koppelaar, the Dutchman who coaches Ireland, said he was angry for most of the match at the award of the second penalty corner from which Bashir scored.

### Standings

Group standings (tablets under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Group A						
Netherlands	2	2	0	0	7	3
Australia	1	1	0	0	4	1
India	1	0	1	0	1	1
Soviet Union	2	0	1	1	3	6
France	1	0	0	1	2	0
Argentina	1	0	0	1	1	4
Group B						
Pakistan	2	2	0	0	8	4
West Germany	1	1	0	0	4	1
England	1	1	0	0	2	0
Spain	1	0	0	1	3	6
Ireland	2	0	0	2	1	4
Canada	1	0	0	1	1	4

## Logie out of one-day games

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Feb 13, (Reuters): West Indies batsman Gus Logie is out of this week's two one-day cricket internationals against England and is expected to miss the first Test in Jamaica starting on February 24.

Logie re-injured a finger fielding for Trinidad against Barbados on Saturday and could be out of action for three weeks.

The West Indies are not expected to name a replacement for tomorrow's first one-day match in Port-

of-Spain. But a stand-in may be summoned for Saturday's second clash, which is also at Queen's Park Oval.

Logie's middle order spot will probably go to Cade Hooper.

The West Indies earlier lost fast bowler Curly Ambrose from the first two matches of the five-match series because of haemorrhoids. He was replaced by Eldine Baptiste.

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Mr. Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khaled

## The 8th Modern House Exhibition

will be inaugurated at 10.00 am today.

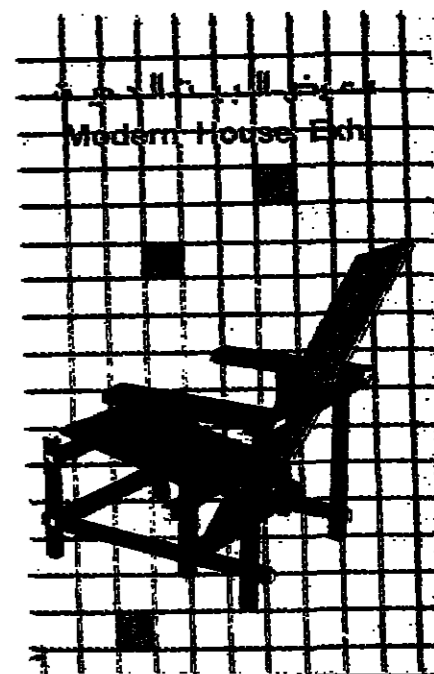
The exhibition is organised by the Kuwait International Fair Co at Hall No. 4 at the International Fairs Ground in Mishrif.

The exhibition will remain open from Feb 14 to 23, 1990.

It will receive visitors from 4.00-9.00 pm on the inauguration day and from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm and from 4.00 - 9.00 pm daily on subsequent days.



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Kuwait International Hotel, Feb 12-14 - Kuwait



### Conference Programme

Wednesday, Feb 14

8.00 - 10.00 am — Clinical Pharmacology session  
10.00 - 10.15 am — Interval  
10.15 am - 12.15 pm — Pharmaceutical Technology session  
3.30 - 5.00 pm — Medicinal Plants session  
5.00 - 5.15 pm — Interval  
5.15 - 6.45 pm — Update lectures on Medical Sciences symposium

9.00 pm — A farewell dinner in honour of participants at Grand Ballroom-Kuwait International Hotel.

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